

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,

EASTERN CIRCLE,

FOR

1916-17.



CALCUTTA :

THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.

1917.

Published at the Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

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No 813

FROM C DUROISELLE, Esq ,

*Offg Superintendent, Archæological Survey,
Eastern Circle,*

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,
GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated Patna, the 5th September 1917.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report of the Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, for the year 1916-17, together with two sets of the photographs taken during the year, the second set being intended for transmission to the India Office.

The delay in submitting this Report is due to Dr Spooner's absence as Officiating Director-General in Simla during the preparation of the Report.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. DUROISELLE,

*Offg. Superintendent, Archæological Survey,
Eastern Circle.*

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.
PART I,

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PART I.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1 **Office.**—As was recorded in paragraph 9 of my last year's Report, the Superintendent was absent from this Circle for one month during the year 1916-17, (namely from the 5th June to the 4th July) while he officiated as Director General of Archaeology, in the place of Sir John Marshall, then on leave. Mr. Haranandan Panday, Excavation Assistant to the Director General, held charge of the offices of both Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent during this period, and also of the Officer-in-Charge, Archaeological Section, Indian Museum, Calcutta. These three offices continued in the charge of one officer throughout the year, until the 21st December, 1916, when, by the appointment of Mr. Panday, the office of Assistant Superintendent was again filled. The only other change during the year under review was the appointment of Muhammad Shamsul Haq in the place of the second clerk in the Assistant Superintendent's office, Muhammad Habibul Haq, who died on August 23. Such leave as has been taken by the staff throughout the year is shown in tabular form in Appendix A, and the expenditure of the year in Appendix B. In this place, therefore, it only remains for me to express my appreciation of the way in which the staffs of both offices have co-operated with their officers throughout the year.

2 **Superintendent's Tour.**—As excavations were in progress both at Nalanda and at Pataliputra at the beginning of the financial year, the months of April and May were divided between Patna and Bargaon, as shown in Appendix C, where the details of the season's touring are tabulated. June the Superintendent spent in Simla, as Officiating Director General. In this same month the Officiating Superintendent visited Murshidabad (between the 20th and the 23rd), and Nanoo in the Burdhum District (between the 28th and the 30th), but was otherwise resident in Bankipore in connexion with the duties of the Assistant Superintendent and the Pataliputra excavations. July and part of August were spent by the Superintendent at Simla as Recess, while the period from August 18th to September 23rd was devoted to a tour of inspection in the Central Provinces and Berar. He returned to the Assistant Superintendent's office after this and in the interval between September 24th and November 9th remained there, paying visits of inspection to two or three places in the neighbourhood in the meantime. On November 10th he went to Baidwan in connexion with the conservation of certain tombs, and thereafter proceeded to Rajshahi for a visit to the Varendra Research Society. From Rajshahi he went to Malda, and from the 14th to the 22nd was occupied with inspection of the remains at Gaur and Panduah. He returned to Bankipore on the 23rd. A meeting of the Committee of Management of the Indian Museum called him to Calcutta on the 7th December, from which he proceeded, on the 8th, into camp at Bargaon in the Patna District, where he continued in connexion with the Royal Asiatic Society's excavations throughout the remainder of the year, except for one visit to Bankipore to confer with His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, and one to Calcutta, to meet the Director General of Archaeology.

The Assistant Superintendent's touring is reported separately

3 **Exploration.**—The exploratory work of the season has been confined to the continuation of the Royal Asiatic Society's excavations at Nalanda. As has been noted in previous Reports, the height of the sub-soil water-level at Pataliputra makes an approach to the oldest remains difficult save in the late spring and the hot weather. It had been proposed therefore to excavate at Nalanda until about the 1st of April, and thereafter to resume the Pataliputra work. But as the undersigned was informed that he would be invited to officiate again this year for the Director General, it appeared undesirable to recommence Sir Ratan Tata's excavations at a date which would not admit of any material progress being made, and which would also preclude the possibility of reporting on them; as it was essential that the Superintendent's work in the Eastern Circle should be as nearly as possible completed before he assumed the duties of the higher post. I have, therefore, no progress to report in those important excavations which were carried out at the Bulandi Bagh last year, but it is hoped that in the coming season this work, which from an archaeological point of view, it is most important to carry further, can be appreciably extended and increased.

At Nalanda, on the other hand, considerable progress has been made. Most of the problems connected with the main site opened up in the previous year have met with their solutions, and it can be demonstrated now that upon this one spot four separate and successive monasteries have been erected through a series of centuries, each being erected over the ruins of the previous one, and the second in date enveloping the oldest. Two brick structures with the appearance of artificial caves, with arched ceilings carried out in brick masonry, are a notable feature of the site, and also the fact that in the original monastery the verandah around the central court was at one time lined with sculptures which, from the few fragments now recovered, seem to have been of extreme excellence and beauty. From various positions in these ruins quite a large collection of inscribed seals was made, and numerous small statuettes, in both stone and metal. Indeed, our metal stands of images are unusually numerous and in unusual preservation, for the most part. But until an analysis is made, it is not easy to state whether they are bronze or copper. It is to be presumed that they are bronze, of course, as also a fairly large metal column, with elaborate capital showing a lion above an elephant. All in all, the yield from Site No. 1 has been very satisfactory, as will be described in more detail in the second part of this Report.

A beginning was also made at the high mound just west of the former site, where apparently a large stupa stood in early times, which has been built over or encased repeatedly through successive ages. Excavation here is a slow and intricate proceeding, but it is repaid by the exceptional interest of the site, and by the fact that the innermost structure of all (of those discovered up to date) is found to have a well preserved coating of stucco artistically moulded and singularly well preserved. But all of this work, as well as the slight surface clearance carried out at the site of the temple with the sculptured frieze described last year, can be discussed to better advantage in Part II.

The balance of the Royal Asiatic Society's gift of £218, namely, Rs 1,049, was expended this year, together with a sum of Rs 4,683, drawn from the regular budget of the Superintendent's office for excavation. The work, which was recommenced in early December, continued until the end of April. The expenditure during April amounted to Rs 1,541 odd, but this is chargeable to the account for the succeeding year.

In concluding this paragraph, I desire to express again the Department's great appreciation of the liberality of the Royal Asiatic Society. In proposing, also, to leave whatever might be found as a gift to the Province of Bihar and Orissa, they have done a signal service to the community.

Indeed, their example has already been followed by the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Hathwa, who has not only consented to the acquisition by Government of certain valuable sculptures found on a mound at Belwa, in the Saran District, but has also undertaken, in the most public spirited way, to defray the cost of exploration. A sum of Rs 3,000 is to be made available for this work as soon as the Department can arrange to take the Belwa site in hand.

The thanks of the Department, and of the public generally, are due to the Maharaja Bahadur for this liberality

4 **Treasure trove.**—(A) **Bengal.**—Three finds of coins were reported from Bengal during the year. Of these, one was a find of 67 modern coins at Daigapara in the Rajshahi District, made on the 19th July 1916. At Kolebari in the same District another find was made, on November 8th, but this also consisted of old British coins and coins struck at Muhsidabad in the name of the Emperor Shah Alam, and were not recommended for acquisition. They totalled 299 specimens in all, and there was also a silver ring of trifling value associated with them which also was not acquired. The third find was one of two punch-marked coins, reported on by the Collector of Etawah, but up to the present I have been given no details of the finding.* Their acquisition for the Indian Museum was recommended.

Of Treasure not consisting of coins, only one find was reported during the year from Bengal, namely the discovery, while excavating a tank at Deona, police-station Bhanga, in the Faridpur District, of a black stone image of Vishnu, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. A member of my staff was sent to photograph this image, and its acquisition was subsequently effected. The figure, of mediæval date, is generally in good condition, although one of its four hands is 'broken off'. The occurrence of the Avatars on the frame of the statue lends it an added interest.

(B) **Bihar and Orissa.**—On the 28th August the Collector of Muzaffarpur reported that two men, while digging in their own old ruined house in Mahalla Manik Chowk, in the town of Hajipur, had found 51 silver coins, to which three copper coins were subsequently added when the digging was extended by the Sub-Inspector of Police. These coins were sent to Mr R. D. Banerji the Assistant Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, at the Indian Museum, Calcutta, who later described them as being in two cases coins of Akbar, in one a coin of Jahangir, in 46 coins of Shahjahan, and in two cases, coins of Aurangzeb; the three copper coins being illegible. All the 51 silver coins were acquired by Government for the Coin Cabinet of the new Museum at Bankipore.

A further find of 76 Late Mughal coins from village Mohjama, Thana Patu, in the Muzaffarpur District, was also acquired for the Bankipore Museum on the recommendation of Mr Muhammad Hamid, Officiating Assistant Superintendent at the Calcutta Museum (Archæological Section).

In November 1916 Mr R. D. Banerji reported to Government the results of his examination of the great find of punch-marked coins from Patiaha, police-station Dhamdaha, in the District of Purneah, which had been sent to him by the Collector on the 15th May, 1913. Mr. Banerji writes that "These coins were imbedded in a mass of conglomerate, and the extraction of each particular specimen from the mass without causing damage to itself and to its neighbours was a long and tedious process. The extraction of the coins and then cleaning required about three years. Two thousand eight hundred seventy three silver coins of the following different classes have been obtained from the mass of conglomerate—1. Thick square, 2. Thin square, 3. Thick round, 4. Thin round." The acquisition of this find was subsequently ordered, and the deposit of the coins in the Bankipore Museum pending their final distribution among the Cabinets of the country. Whether such distribution is really desirable, however, is perhaps questionable. In view of the many problems still pending in regard to this early coinage I for my part would prefer to see so remarkable a find kept together, so as to permit of repeated study of the collection from time to time as our horizons widen. In the present state of knowledge, no single study can even aspire to real finality.

On the 19th February 1917 the Deputy Commissioner of the Santal Parganas reported to Government the discovery of 134 old silver coins, said to be of Mughal times, which had been found in a metal pot like a *lota* by certain persons digging in a mango grove in a village called Babhangawa within the jurisdiction of the Rajmahal police-station on the date of the 25th

* Sometime in June 1916, two brothers, Upendra Nath Ghosh and Surendra Nath Ghosh of Dhanyarukhi in Thana Mangalkote in the Katwa Subdivision, District Burdwan, found these coins at a depth of about 2 feet while digging the earth by the side of the Ajay river. This information has been supplied by the Government of Bengal with their endorsement No 971, dated the 14th August 1917.

April, 1916 The coins were subsequently sent to the expert for examination, but his report has not as yet been received in this office *

The Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh enquired from the Archaeological Superintendent on the 29th March 1917 regarding the identification of 60 old silver coins in good condition found buried in a field in Mouza Tanku in the Chatra Sub-division of that District, and was referred to the Numismatic Expert, whose report is still awaited *. From the statement submitted by the local Police, the coins would appear to be late Mughal

In October 1916 the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division forwarded to the Superintendent a report received from the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau regarding a find of 25 pieces of copper implements in waste land in village Hami within the jurisdiction of Thana Mahuadand, on the 28th August 1916 These implements, which comprised six axe-heads and 19 hais, were subsequently acquired for the Provincial Museum

In October 1916 the Collector of Saran, in the Tirhut Division, brought it to the notice of Government that certain statues and other sculptured remains were lying on a certain mound near Belwa in that District, and Government called upon the Superintendent for a report From photographs supplied by Babu Pindi Lal it became apparent that these comprised one large and very choice image of Vishnu, and certain portions of a highly ornamental door-frame The exploration of the mound, as well as the acquisition of these remains, was recommended, and, as has been already noted in a previous paragraph, both have been rendered possible by the liberality of the Maharaja Bahadur of Hathwa It is hoped that the exploration can be taken in hand next autumn or cold weather The sculptural fragments have in the meantime, it is understood, been brought into Bankipore

5 Epigraphy.—In paragraph 6 of my last year's Report, (page 7), mention was made of four sets of old copper-plates forwarded to me by the Political Agent in the Orissa Feudatory States as having been found among the effects of the late Chief of the Baud State (accidentally misprinted as "Bond" in the place quoted) On examination of the impressions sent him from my office Mr Krishna Shastri, the Officiating Government Epigraphist, found that two of them were the grants of Ranabhanjadeva already published by Mr. R D Banerji on pages 321—328 of the *Epigraphia Indica*, volume XII, and that "the third is also a grant of Ranabhanja, whose predecessors Satrubhanja and Silabhanja are mentioned in the body of the record These latter register the grant of the village Vahiravada to a certain Vijasesura, in the twenty-second year of the victorious reign of the king The grant was incised by the goldsmith Sivanaga, the son of Pandi, who also wrote the second inscription of Ranabhanja of his twenty-sixth year, published by Mr Banerji The fourth is a new copper-plate of a king named Somesvara, who is stated to have been a member of the solar race, and of the Chola family. The eulogistic passage describing the king connects him with Chandradityadeva (also called Challamaraja ?) and makes him the lord of the whole Kosala country He made a grant of the village of Vanyaveenna in the district Charoda-vishaya to two Brahmanas, in the year, read tentatively as Samvat 502 On paleographical grounds the record may be roughly attributed to the 11th century A D Chandraditya mentioned here as the second ascendant of Somesvara might have been identical with Chandraditya of the solar race mentioned in the Epigraphical Report for the year 1909, page 112 " The original plates were subsequently made over to the Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar and Orissa for deposit pending the formation of the Bankipore Museum, while the stampages were sent on loan to Mr Banerji, who has consented to edit the two unpublished documents

In October 1916 the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Raipur, in the Central Provinces, forwarded to me impressions of an epigraph occurring on a stone slab near the village of Munmura in the Dhamtari Tahsil of the Raipur District The precise position of the stone is said to be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the village, just at the source of the Jhajnhol Nalla inside a pool into which a stream falls from a slight height. The inscription itself, which is in good condition, consists of one line, some $2\frac{1}{4}$ long, of six aksharas, on a slab $7\frac{1}{2}$ long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ broad, and 2' high, and has been read by Mr. Krishna

* Details have been received since the above was written, and will be given in next year's Report.

Shastri as "Ādityāvārāha" "This name", he remarks, "is quite unknown to epigraphical literature. It does not occur among the names of kings either Northern or Southern, neither do any of the images of Indian iconography receive this name." No date has been assigned.

On the 26th March, 1917, while a road was being dug for the laying of water pipes in the town of Damoh, in the Central Provinces, a slab 2' x 1' 8", with a thickness of 5", was discovered by accident only one foot below the surface of the road. The Assistant Engineer in charge sent the slab to Rai Bahadur Hira Lal, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Damoh, who has drawn up an account of it for the *Epigraphia Indica*, from which the present details are quoted. It appears to be a Hindi inscription of Mahmud Shah II of Malwa, dated in the (Vikrama) Samvat 1570. (A. D. 1512), and proclaims the remission of certain fees theretofore levied by the Mukta grantee of the town of Damoh. I desire to express my obligations to the Rai Bahadur for his courtesy in sending me an advance copy of his article, without which the discovery could not have been recorded in the present pages at this time.

6 List of Ancient Monuments.—The work of the Temporary Photographers in connexion with the revision of the List of Ancient Monuments has continued as usual, and a total of some 340 new negatives has been prepared, the number being this year equally divided between Mr. Ganguli and Mr. Pindi Lal. As both of these gentlemen have now become experienced and proficient in their work, it has been found possible to simplify the procedure, and much time is now being saved in consequence, without appreciable loss in efficiency. The area covered in the season under review comprised the Districts of Patna and Gaya, both of which have now been completed, and also the Districts of Monghyr and Shalabad, where the work has been commenced only, although Mr. Ganguli reports that but little now remains in the former of these two. The chief difficulty felt in connexion with the revision is the inability of the Gazetted officers to find time, in the midst of their multifarious duties, for the concentrated and protracted attention to this work without which real progress is rendered the reverse of easy. So long as the Superintendent was single-handed in four Provinces, but little opportunity indeed was afforded him for sustained effort in this direction. But now that Mr. Panday has joined his appointment as Assistant Superintendent, it is hoped that one or other of the two officers can devote a month or six weeks to systematic work on the revision sometime this autumn.

7 Drawings and Photographs.—The drawings and photographs prepared for the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent during the year under review are listed in Appendices E and F, respectively. I would note, however, that this list does not include the special photographs taken for the revision of the List of Ancient Monuments in Bihar and Orissa.

8 Superintendents' programme for 1917-18.—As frequently happens in writing this Report, a considerable portion of the year has already elapsed before this programme can be framed. Thus the month of May was devoted to the Excavations at Nalanda, and the first two weeks of June were spent in Bankipore, where certain minor works were necessary in connexion with the Pataliputra Excavations, and where arrangements had to be made for my officiating term in Simla. To the latter place I proceeded on the 13th June, to take over charge of the Director Generalship for four months with effect from the 20th of that month, Mr. Charles Duroiselle coming from Burma to officiate in my stead as Superintendent in the Eastern Circle. On resuming charge at the end of October I now hope to devote myself actively for some six weeks or so to the revision of the List of Ancient Monuments and to placing various accumulated collections of Antiquities in the new Patna Museum. Somewhere about the first of the new year I hope to return to Nalanda for the further prosecution of our research work there; but, it is presumable that we shall have but a short season there this year. A certain amount of touring in connexion with our conservation work will also be inevitable, as occasion arises, but it is not easy at this time to foresee in detail where this may take me. It is hoped also that the Tata Excavations at the Bulandi Bagh can be resumed next year, but the conditions of the site make it difficult to undertake this work until the approach of spring, as has been explained before.

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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT.
PART I.

1 **Conservation.**—As stated in paragraph 4 of the Report for 1915-16, conservation work in the Eastern Circle has been seriously affected by the war. During the year under review no new works were undertaken and no Imperial grant-in-aid for conservation was received in any of the four provinces comprised in this Circle. A statement of expenditure on Archaeological works during the year is given in Appendix D to this report.

(A) **Bengal.**—In the Presidency of Bengal, the Public Works Department report a total expenditure of Rs 24,533-7-6 on conservation work during 1916-17 (including Rs. 722 spent on the annual repairs to *Nizamat tomb*, and Rs 1,020-10 on special repairs to the Guptipara temples contributed by the owners) which was distributed over 8 items of special repairs and 62 of annual repairs, many of the items in both classes including a large number of monuments. Among the 8 groups of monuments where special repairs were undertaken during the past year, work has been completed at four while at the remaining four the repairs are still continuing. The former class includes—(i) the Temple of Jayadeva at Kenduli in the Burdhum district where an amount of Rs 874 has been spent against an estimate of Rs 941, (ii) four temples in Bindaban Chandra Math at Guptipara in the Hooghly district where the expenditure amounts to Rs. 1,020-10 contributed by the owner against an estimate of Rs 1,062, (iii) the Tomb of Khan Jahan Ali at Masjidkur in the Khulna district which has cost Rs 3,126 against an estimate of Rs 3,758, and (iv) the Chika Mosque at Gau in the Malda district on which only Rs 2,422 have been spent during 1916-17 out of a sanctioned estimate of Rs 4,270 (Rs 1,894 were spent on this work during the year preceding). The latter class comprises the following—(i) Fourteen temples at or near Vishnupur in the Bankura district for which an estimate amounting to Rs 1,650 has been sanctioned, out of which Rs 1,444 has been spent during the year under report, (ii) The Jatar Deul Temple in the Sunderbans in the 24-Parganas district where Rs. 1,928 has been spent during 1916-17 out of a sanctioned estimate of Rs 2,851, (iii) the Satgumbaz Mosque and Khan Jahan Ali's tomb at Bagerhat in the Khulna district for which an estimate amounting to Rs 14,218 has been sanctioned and the expenditure during the past year amounted to Rs 5,403; (iv) The Cloisters to the Adina Mosque at Pandua in the Malda district where Rs 2,999 is shown to have been expended during 1916-17 against an estimate of Rs. 7,250 sanctioned by this Department.

The special repairs which were started in 1911-15 to the Mosque at Masjidban (Barisal) in the Bakarganj district for which an estimate amounting to Rs 3,000 has been sanctioned by this Department, had to be postponed for want of funds. I am glad to note, however, that while writing this report I received a communication from the Government of Bengal to the effect that a sum of Rs 2,250 has been allotted for expenditure during the current financial year on this work.

The annual repairs consisted, as usual, mostly of works of a petty nature and the sum of Rs 5,316-13-6 was distributed over a very large number of monuments in the Presidency. The only monuments or groups of these where the expenditure amounted to over Rs 200 are—(i) Henry Martin's Pagoda at Seiampoie in the Hooghly district (Rs 268); (ii) 19 temples at Vishnupur in the Bankura district (Rs 464), (iii) the Nizamat Tombs at Jafarganj in the Murshidabad district (Rs 722 met by owner), (iv) the Hussain Dalan at Dacca (Rs 215-12), (v) the Satgumbaz Mosque and the tomb of Khan Jahan Ali at Bagerhat* in the Khulna district (Rs 264), and (vi) the archaeological buildings at Gaur and Panduah in the Malda district (Rs 961).

(B) **Bihar and Orissa.**—The Public Works Department report a total expenditure amounting to Rs 15,360-15 during 1916-17 on conservation work in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. Of this sum Rs 11,543 were spent on the special repairs to the tomb of Bukhtiyar Khan at Champur in the Shahabad district which have been completed at a total expenditure of Rs 13,371. The balance of Rs. 3,812-15 was distributed over two items of special works and 56 items of annual repairs, many items in the latter class comprising several

* Special repairs to these monuments at an estimated cost of Rs 14,218 are in progress

monuments The temple of Rohitasva at Rohtas in the Shahabad district has been provided with lightning conductors at a cost of Rs. 277 and certain improvements to the rock sculptures at Patharghata in the Bhagalpur district have been effected over which only Rs. 71 were expended during 1916-17, the rest of the amount (Rs. 759) having been spent before the commencement of the year under report. Certain improvements to the rock-temple at Colgong in the Bhagalpur district for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 324 was sanctioned by this Department in 1915 and over which Rs. 160 was expended before the commencement of 1916-17 have had to be suspended pending the decision of a dispute raised by the local Muhammadans.

The annual repairs were, as usual, of a petty nature and the expenditure did not anywhere rise above Rs. 200 except in the following four cases —

- (i) The fortress at Rohtas in the Shahabad district where a sum of Rs. 462 was expended on the clearance of jungle and the execution of certain petty repairs, (ii) the tombs of Makhdum Shah Daulat and Subadar Ibrahim at Manair in the Patna district where the reported expenditure of Rs. 460 on ordinary repairs includes the pay of a chowkidar, (iii) the Black Pagoda and the Temple at Konarak in the Puri district over the annual repairs to which a sum of Rs. 491 has been spent, and (iv) the Abu Nasir Khan's mosque at Jajpur in the Cuttack district where a staircase of sand-stone masonry was constructed at an expenditure of Rs. 271.

(C) **Central Provinces and Berar.**—According to the statement received from the Public Works Department the total expenditure on conservation in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1916-17 amounts to Rs. 9,714 as compared with Rs. 10,988-4 during 1915-16 and Rs. 13,461-10-3 during 1914-15. This was distributed over no less than forty-six items of annual repairs and fourteen of special works. Of the latter class of works nine were brought to completion during the past year, one has been postponed and four are still in progress.

The turret of the fort wall at Ballarpur in the Chanda district has been underpinned at an expenditure of Rs. 715 of which sum Rs. 532 was expended before the commencement of 1916-17, on the special repairs to the Old Chatra and the Fort at Balapur in the Akola district (the former of which has been completed) Rs. 406 and Rs. 500, respectively, were spent during the past year, while an expenditure amounting to Rs. 210 has brought to completion the special repairs to the Temple of Anandesvar at Lasur in the Amravati district which were started about three years ago. At Amner in the Amravati district certain repairs to the tomb of Lal Khan were completed at a cost of Rs. 501 and at Dhamla in the Drug District the repairs to the Old Mahal and gate within the fort ruins have cost Rs. 152. At Asurgah in the Nimai district the tomb of Shah Gohar, the Idgah, and the Mahadeva Temple inside the fort, underwent special repairs at an expenditure of Rs. 634, Rs. 56 and Rs. 52, respectively. The repairs to the tomb of Nadir Shah at Bulhanpur for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 4,506 has been sanctioned by this Department are in course of execution and Rs. 1,042 were spent on the work during 1916-17. Dismantling and rebuilding the Mahadeva Temple at Gandai in the Drug district, and certain repairs to the Gupta monuments at Eran for which estimates amounting to Rs. 7,620 and Rs. 182, respectively, have been sanctioned, are reported to have been in progress when the year ended. A large number of works for which estimates have already been framed and sanctioned are awaiting for allotment of funds before the repairs outlined in these can be executed.

In only four out of the forty-six items of annual repairs the expenditure amounted to Rs. 200 or more. These are —

- (i) The Marhatta fort at Nagardhan in the Nagpur district (Rs. 200),
- (ii) The fort wall at Chanda (Rs. 528), (iii) the fort at Rahatgarh (Rs. 489), and (iv) the Mahal (or fort) of the old Dangi rulers at Gaikharha (Rs. 225) in the Saugar district,

(D) **Assam.**—The Public Works Department have reported an expenditure amounting to Rs 1 698 during 1916-17 on conservation work in Assam which was distributed over as many as 15 items, some of which include many monuments. This amount is to be compared with Rs 2,196 of 1915-16 and Rs 3 632 of 1914-15. The annual repairs which absorbed as much as Rs 1,416 of the total sum were mostly of a petty nature and nowhere cost more than Rs 60 except at (i) Sibsagar where a sum of Rs 806 was expended on the very important group of monuments and antiquities, and (ii) Dimapur over the ruins at which place Rs 324 were spent during the year under report. Only one item of special repairs, that to the Sibdole Temple at Gauisagai in the Sibsagai district, is reported as having been completed during 1916-17, the expenditure amounting to Rs 691 in all (including Rs 403 which was spent in the previous year). The proposed improvements to the Cachari Ruins at Khaspur in the Cachar district for which an estimate amounting to Rs 1,547 was sanctioned by this Department some three years ago has had to be postponed for want of funds.

2 **Assistant Superintendent's Tour.**—Under orders of Government I took over charge by telegram on the 21st December, 1916, and continued my stay at Sanchi where I was assisting the Director-General in working up his Annual Reports, and arrived at headquarters only on the 24th January 1917. From February 15th to 17th I made a short tour to Champur in the Shahabad district in order to select a site for erecting a shed for the chowkidar who looks after the tomb of Bukhtiyar Khan. Between February 27th and March 6th I went to Calcutta to confer with the Director-General and to Bargaon in order to visit the Nalanda excavations and to confer with the Superintendent. The time between March 17th to March 30th I spent in inspecting the monuments at Vishnupur (Bankura District), Bhuvanesvara, Khandagiri and Udayagiri, and Puri (Orissa), and Rajmahal in the Santal Parganas (Bihar). I was at headquarters on the day the year under report came to a close.

3 **Assistant Superintendent's Programme for 1917-18.**—In May, 1917, I visited some monuments in Assam and since my return have been engaged in clearing certain arrears of office work which had, naturally enough, accumulated during the continued absence of one of the two officers in this circle for over three years. My tour programme for 1917-18 is not yet settled and the arrangement outlined here is liable to alterations. During the rains I propose to visit some of the monuments in the Central Provinces. During October and part of November I intend to tour in Bihar and Orissa and December I propose to spend in inspecting the monuments in Bengal. During January and February I propose to visit some of the monuments in Assam and in March I may have to tour in the Central Provinces again.

H. PANDAY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
EASTERN CIRCLE,
FOR
1916-17.
APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

Leave taken during the year 1916-17 —

Superintendent's Office—

Babu Nanda Lal Mitra, Photographer	Privilege	2 months 10 days	9th January to 18th March 1917
Mr Suprakash (Ganguli, Temporary Photographer)	Privilege	28 days	12th October to 8th November 1916.

Assistant Superintendent's Office—

Muhammad Halbul Haq, 2nd Clerk	Privilege	1 month 13 days	20th May to 2nd July 1916
Ditto Medical			4th July to 23rd August 1916, on which day he died
Babu Nandendra Nath Bose, Draftsman	Privilege	2 months 15 days	8th January to 22nd March 1917

APPENDIX B.

The expenditure during the year has been as follows —

Salary of Gazetted Officers—

Superintendent's pay	..	8,368	11	3	
Assistant Superintendent's pay	...	706	7	3	
					9,075 2 6

Salary of Non-Gazetted Establishment—

3 Clerks	..	1,558	10	10	
1 Photographer	..	1,200	0	0	
2 Draftsmen...	..	1,775	10	3	
1 Maulvi	..	1,590	0	0	
5 Peons	...	477	6	9	
1 Chowkidar	..	72	0	0	
Privilege leave allowance from 19th June to 2nd July 1916 at Rs 30 per mensem paid to a substitute clerk	...	13	15	0	
Medical leave allowance from 13th to 31st July 1916 at Rs 30 per mensem paid to a substitute clerk	...	18	6	2	
Medical leave allowance from 2nd to 23rd August 1916 at Rs 25 per mensem paid to a substitute clerk	...	17	11	10	
Privilege leave allowance from 16th January to 28th February 1917 at Rs 70 per mensem paid to a substitute Photographer	...	106	2	0	
Temporary Establishment	..	56	2	1	
Grain Compensation Allowance	...	42	10	10	
					6,928 11 9

Allowances—

Travelling allowances, Gazetted officers	...	3,162	2	0	
Ditto, Establishment	...	2,699	6	9	
					5,861 8 9

Supplies and Services—

Charges for excavations	..	4,999	8	8	
Photographs and photo-materials	..	531	3	0	
Purchase and repair of tents	..	120	5	0	
					5,651 0 8

Contingencies—

Purchase of instruments	..	120	10	0	
Purchase of stationery	..	7	3	0	
Purchase of books	..	221	3	0	
Rents, rates and taxes	..	600	0	0	
Postage and telegram charges	..	370	0	0	
Conveyance of tents, stores, records, etc	..	586	8	0	
Hot and cold weather charges	..	150	4	6	
Purchase and repair of furniture	..	487	0	0	
Miscellaneous	..	392	6	6	
Menial charges	...	90	0	0	
					3,025 3 0
Total	...				30,541 10 8

	Rs.	A	P.	Rs.	A	P.
<i>Temporary Establishment—</i>						
<i>Salary—</i>						
2 Photographers	2,765	13	0	..	..	..
3 Peons	324	0	0	...		
Deputation allowance from 25th March to 21st May 1916 paid to a photographer ..	43	6	2			
				3,133	3	2
<i>Allowances—</i>						
Travelling allowances	2,151	2	0	2,151	2	0
<i>Contingencies—</i>						
Photo-material, etc ..	1,588	5	6	1,588	5	6
Total	...			6,872	10	8

APPENDIX C.

The following statement shows the amount of time spent on tour —

DR D B SPOONER

1916	
April 1st to 4th	At Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties at the excavations of Pataliputra
„ 5th to 17th	At Bargaon, Patna District, for excavations at Nalanda
„ 18th to May 3rd	To Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties at the excavations of Pataliputra.
May 4th to 8th	At Bargaon, Patna District, for excavations at Nalanda
„ 9th to 30th	To Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties at the excavations of Pataliputra
„ 31st to June 4th	To Simla, to take over charge of the Office of the Director General of Archaeology at Simla

H PANDAY

(*Officiating Superintendent*)

1916	
June 5th to 10th ..	At Simla, for consultation with the Director General of Archaeology
„ 11th to 19th	To Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties at the excavations at Pataliputra.
„ 20th to 23rd	To headquarters (Calcutta) thence to Muhsidabad for inspection
„ 24th to 27th	At Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties at the excavations at Pataliputra
„ 28th to 30th	To Calcutta, thence to Nanoor in the Birbhum District, for inspection.
July 1st to 4th ..	To Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties at the excavations at Pataliputra

DR D. B. SPOONER

1916.	
July 5th to August 17th	Recess at Simla
August 18th to September 23rd	In the Central Provinces and Berar for a tour of inspection
September 24th to October 17th	To Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties
October 18th	To Patna Cemetery, for inspection.
„ 19th to 23rd	At Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties,

1916

October 24th	..	To Manair, for inspection
" 25th to 29th	..	At Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties
" 30th	..	Inspection tour at Gulzarbagh.
" 31st to November 9th	..	At Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties
November 10th to 11th	..	To Burdwan, for inspection of certain monuments
" 12th to 13th	..	To Rajshahi, in connexion with the Varendra Research Society
" 14th to 22nd	..	Inspection of monuments at Gau and Panduah in the Malda District.
" 23rd to December 5th	..	To Bankipore, for charge of Assistant Superintendent's office and duties
December 6th to 7th	..	Duty at headquarters
" 8th to February 1st 1917	..	At Bargaon, for excavations at Nalanda
February 2nd to 3rd	...	To confer with His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at Pankipore
" 4th to 24th	..	To Bargaon, for excavations at Nalanda
" 25th to 26th	...	To confer with the Director General of Archaeology at headquarters
" 27th to March 31st	..	To Bargaon, for excavations at Nalanda

H PANDAY

(Assistant Superintendent)

1916

December 21st to 31st Under orders to take over charge of office by telegram and to stop at Sanchi to assist the Director-General of Archaeology in India
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1917.

January 1st to 21st Under orders to take over charge of office by telegram and to stop at Sanchi to assist the Director-General of Archaeology in India
" 22nd to 24th	..	... To join appointment at headquarters
February 15th to 17th	...	... Inspection tour to Champur in the Shahabad district
" 27th to 2nd March	..	.. To Calcutta to confer with the Director-General of Archaeology in India
March 4th to 6th	...	.. To Bargaon in the Patna district to confer with the Superintendent and visit the excavations
" 17th to 30th	...	... Inspection tour in the Bankura, Puri and the Sonthal Parganas districts.

APPENDIX D.

A.—Statement of expenditure on Archaeological Works in Bengal (both special and annual repairs) during 1916-17.

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
Hooghly	Chinsura	Annual repairs to Dutch cemetery graves ..	Rs A P 47 0 0	Rs A P 47 1 0	} Completed
Ditto	Ditto	Seven tombs of the English and Dutch portion of the cemetery	17 0 0	16 12 0	
Ditto	Serampore	Annual repairs to Henry Martin's pagoda	340 0 0	268 0 0	
Ditto	Satgaon	Mosque and tombs	60 0 0	58 4 0	
Ditto	Pandua	Small mosque	25 0 0	23 0 0	
Ditto	Serampur	Danish cemetery ..	166 0 0	161 0 0	
		Carried over	..	574 1 0	

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
			Rs A	Rs A P	
		Brought forward	.	574 1 0	
Hooghly	Pandua	Minar at Pandua	35 0	34 0 0	Completed
Ditto	Tiebeni	Tomb of Zafar Khan Ghazi	97 0	85 7 0	
Ditto	Near Sahelganj	Clark's temple	51 0	8 6 0	
Burdwan	Kalna	Mosque and tomb of Majlis Sahel	118 0	110 8 0	
Ditto	Kalna sub-division	Temple at Buddipuri	18 0	21 7 0	
Ditto	Burdwan	Tomb of Beham Sakka	25 0	19 8 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto Sher Afgan and Kutubuddin	50 0	45 3 0	
Ditto	Bamanarali	Rareswar Siva temple at Bamanarali	55 0	55 7 0	
Bankura	Near Vishnupore	19 temples	465 0	464 0 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Special repairs to 14 ancient monuments in and near Vishnupur	1,650 0	1,444 0 0	(In progress)
Burhum	Near Suri	Temple at Damadur	44 0	43 12 0	Completed
Ditto	Kenduli	Special repairs to Joydeb temple	941 0	874 0 0	
Jessore	Sagarbari	Tablet of late Michael Madhusudan Dutta	5 0	5 0 0	
Murshidabad	Farid Tola Dadpur	Tomb of Mir Madan	9 0	9 1 0	
Ditto	Katia	Tomb of Azimunnissa Begam	20 0	19 5 0	
CENTRAL CIRCLE					
Murshidabad	Nizambagh	Annual repairs to tomb of Nawab Sarfaraz Khan	10 0	9 8 0	Completed
Ditto	Khoshbagh	Annual repairs to Mausoleum of Alivardi Khan of Koshbagh	4 0	3 15 0	
Ditto	Rosmabagh	Annual repairs to Mausoleum of Sujauddin	4 0	3 10 0	
Ditto	Jafarganj	Annual repairs to tablet of Mir Jafar	2 0	2 0 0	
Ditto	Kunjaghat	Ditto ditto Maharaja Nanda Kumar	1 0	1 0 0	
Ditto	Katia	Tomb and mosque of Mirshad Kuli Khan	200 0	171 11 0	
Ditto	Jangipuri	Khanau mosque	200 0	185 14 0	
Ditto	Panchanan-tola	Tomb of Burmese Prince and Princess	30 0	30 10 0	
Ditto	Kassim Bazar	Tomb of Mary Hastings and her daughter	40 0	39 2 6	
Ditto	Kalkapur	1 Tomb of Daniel Sender Maupl	5 0	3 5 0	
		2 Do Milhem Arnold Brohe	5 0	3 4 0	
		3 Do Johana P van s Brohe	2 0	2 10 0	
		4 Samersit Center Vessher	5 0	4 4 0	
		5 Gregorius Herkelots	5 0	4 6 0	
		6 John Gautvart Van Austen	5 0	4 0 0	
		Carried over		4,282 4 6	

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS	
			Rs A	Rs A P		
		Brought forward .	..	4,282 4 6		
Murshidabad	Station Burial Ground	1 Henry Sherwood ...	5 0	3 10 0	}	
		2 Henry Crichton .	5 1	2 0 0		
Nadia	Plassey	Plassey monument . .	85 0	86 8 0	} Completed	
Do	Ditto	Pillars demarcating Battle-field . .	48 0	42 8 0		
Do	Chakdah	Temple at Chakdah .	99 0	90 0 0	}	
Murshidabad	Jafarganj	Nizamat tombs	738 0	722 0 0		
					Repaired by Public Works Department from funds contributed by owner	
Hooghly	Guptipara ..	Special repairs to 4 temple in Brindaban Chandra Nath.	1,062 0	1,020 10 0	} Completed.	
Ditto	Chinsurah	Annual repairs to cemetery—Dutch portion Mary Burner and Elizabeth Johnston No. 30	27 0	14 9 0		
		Mrs William Johnson No 31, Egbert Enget Bright		2 0 0		
Ditto	Serampur .	Mr J F Meyer in Dutch cemetery ..	0 8	0 8 0		
		EASTERN CIRCLE				
Dacca	Dacca .	Annual repairs to tomb of Jessop Pagot and Colomba Shahab in the cemetery at Dacca	17 0	19 2 0	} Completed	
Do	Do	Annual repairs to Hossain Dalan at Dacca .	225 0	215 12 0		
Do. ...	Do .	Ditto to Biburis tomb at Dacca ..	39 0	40 0 0		
Do .	Do .	Ditto to Greek cenotaph at Dacca .	38 0	19 0 0		
Mymensingh	Agorasindur	Ditto to Sadi mosque at Agorasindur	101 0	89 0 0		
Ditto	Astagram	Ditto to Kutub mosque at Astagram	23 0	15 0 0		
Dacca ..	Munshiganj	Ditto to old Fort at Munshiganj ..	22 0	22 0 0		
Do ..	Lalbagh .	Ditto to old Fort	131 0	136 0 0		
Do	Ditto	Ditto to old mosque ..	58 0	57 0 0	}	
Chittagong .	Fatehpur .	Ditto to Alwal mosque .	28 0	24 0 0		
Bakarganj ..	Masjudpur ..	Repairs to the mosque ...	3,000 0	..	The work has not been carried out for want of funds	
		SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE				
4-Parganas	Sundarbans	Special repairs to the Jatai Deul temple .	2,851 0	1,928 0 0	} In progress	
Khulna	Bagerhat	Ditto to the Satgumbaz mosque and Khan Jahan Ali's tomb	14,218 0	5,403 0 0		
Do	Masjudkur	Conservation of Khan Jahan Ali's tomb	3,758 0	3,126 0 0	} Completed	
Do	Bagerhat	Annual repairs to Satgumbaz mosque and Khan Jahan Ali's tomb	266 0	264 0 0		
Do	Masjudkur	Annual repairs to Khan Jahan Ali's tomb . .	100 0	97 0 0		
Midnapur .	Midnapur	Quinquennial repairs to Mr John Pierce's tomb	16 0	13 0 0		
		Carried over	..	17,794 7 6		

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
		NORTHERN CIRCLE	Rs A	Rs A P	
		Brought forward	.	17,784 7 6	
Rajshahi	Bagha	Annual repairs to mosque	110 0	105 0 0	} Completed
Ditto	Kasumba	Ditto ditto	160 0	167 0 0	
Malda	Gau and Pandua	Ditto to the Archaeological buildings	1,005 0	961 0 0	
Darjeeling	Darjeeling cemetery	Ditto to tomb of General Lloyd	5 0	5 0 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto to tomb of Cosmo-de Kotos	5 0	5 0 0	
		CONSERVATION WORKS			
Malda	Pandua	Special repairs to cloisters of the Adina mosque	7,250 0	2,999 0 0	} In progress
Do	Gau	Ditto to Chakka mosque	4,270 0	2,422 0 0	
Calcutta	Calcutta	Repairing tombs and monuments in the cemeteries, North and South Park Street	135 0	135 0 0	} Completed
		Total	...	24,533 7 6	

B.—Statement of expenditure on Archaeological Works in Bihar and Orissa during 1916-17.

Shahabad	Rohitas	Jungle clearance and petty repairs to Rohitas Fortress	470 0 (a)280 0	462 0 0 (a)277 0 0	} Completed
Ditto	Sasaram	Petty repairs to tomb of Alwal Khan	14 0	13 0 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto and jungle clearance to tomb of Hasan San Shah	147 0	143 0 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto to the tomb of Sher Shah	57 0	56 0 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto to the tomb of Salim Shah	25 0	24 0 0	
Ditto	Champain	Special repairs to Bukhtiar Khan's tomb	13,854 0	11,543 0 0	
Ditto	Ditto	Ordinary repairs to Bukhtiar Khan's tomb	50 0	50 0 0	
Ditto	Rungarh	Ditto to Mundeeswar temple	20 0	20 0 0	
Ditto	Buxar	Ditto to Kat Kanhi tombs	5 0	5 0 0	
Ditto	Do	Ditto to Buxar tombs	10 0	10 0 0	
Ditto	Do	Ditto to cemetery, Buxar	80 0	80 0 0	
Ditto	Do	Ditto to Stud cemetery	15 0	15 0 0	
Ditto	Shergarh	Ditto to Shergarh	100 0	98 0 0	
Ditto	Buxar	Ditto to Fort and Bastion	200 0	200 0 0	
Patna	Manau	Tomb of Mukhdoom Shah Daulat and Subadar Ibrahim			} Completed
Do	Do	Ordinary repairs done to the tomb (expenditure includes the pay of a Chowkidar)	459 0	460 0 0	
Gaya	Bodh-Gaya	Ditto to Bodh Gaya temple	162 0	165 0 0	
		Carried over		13,021 0 0	

(a) Providing lightning conductor to the Rohitavva temple.

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
			Rs A	Rs A P	
		Brought forward ..	..	13,621 0 0	
Gaya	Shamsernagore	Ordinary repairs to tomb of Shamser Khan	48 0	46 0 0	
Do	Gun-ei	Ditto to the ancient Buddhist Statue	13 0	13 0 0	
Gaya	Ghenjau	Ordinary repairs to the ancient Buddhist statue	20 0	11 0 0	
Blagalpur ..	Madhipura	Annual repairs to tomb of Charles Hays	2 0	1 0 0	
Ditto	Blagalpur	Ditto to Buff's cemetery (officers and soldiers of Her Majesty's 3rd Regiment "The Buffs")	8 0	8 0 0	
Purnea	Ariana	Annual Repairs to tomb of John Macquino	5 0	5 0 0	
Monghyr ..	Monghyr Fort	Quadrennial repairs to tomb of Pir Shah Naffa	120 0	114 0 0	
Ditto	Pupahar ..	Ditto to tomb of Miss Mary Anne Beckett	12 0	12 0 0	
Blagalpur	Patharghatta	Certain improvements to Rock sculptures	798 0	71 0 0	Completed
Ditto	Colgong	Ditto to temple	324 0	.	Not completed
Patna	Rajpur ..	Annual repairs such as repairs to roof, etc., to Mahadeo temple	22 0	22 0 0	
Do	Do	Annual repairs to Jain temple	12 0	12 0 0	
Do	Do	Ditto to railing of Manyas Math	24 0	24 0 0	
Do	Bihar	Ditto to plaster to Syed Ibrahim's tomb	68 0	58 0 0	
Do	Gulzarbagh	Annual repairs to Agam Kuan well	10 0	3 0 0	
Do	Patna City	Ditto to Tall stone shaft in Patna City cemetery	3 0	3 0 0	
Do	Civil Court Compound at Bankipur	New final placed in place of broken one, petty repairs, colour washing, cleaning compound, etc., done to Major Knox's tomb	31 0	23 0 0	
Champaran	Lauriya	Annual repairs to Asoka Pillar	23 0	24 0 0	
Ditto	Gobindgunj	Ditto ditto ..	22 0	15 0 0	
Ditto	Rampurwa	Ditto ditto	15 0	12 0 0	
Hazaribagh	Chatia	Ditto to monument of Her Majesty's 25th Regiment	7 0	6 15 0	Completed
Pun	Jagmala village (Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves)	Annual repairs to Ananta Gumphra cave		8 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Satghata cave		9 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Rani Gumphra cave		10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Ganesa Gumphra cave	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Hari Gumphra cave		8 0 0	
		Carried over	.	14,140 15 0	

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS.
			Rs A	Rs A P	
		Brought forward		14,149 15 0	
Puri	Jagmara village (Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves)	Annual repairs to Svargapur Gumpia cave	..	8 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Jaya Vijaya cave	..	8 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Tiger cave	..	9 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to 10 minor caves	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Akasa Ganga and others	..		
Do	Ditto	Ditto to rock and tanks	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Lalita Kunda tank	..	7 0 0	
Do	Bhubaneswar	Ditto to Ananda Basudeva temple	..	20 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Sahasr Linga tank	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Vetul Deul temple	..	15 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Parasurameswar temple	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Mukteswar temple	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Sidheswar temple	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to temple at Brahmeswar	..	12 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Sar Deul	..	20 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Chitra Karini	..	20 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Yameswar	..	20 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Rajarani	..	25 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Ramaswara temple	..	20 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Bhaskareswar temple	..	22 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Matieswar and other minor temples	..	20 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Nageshai temple	..	90 0 0	
Do	Kaunda	Ditto to monument at Gurujang	..	14 0	12 0 0
Do	Do	Ditto ditto at Jajharsingh	..		
Do	Konarak	Ditto to temple at Konarak (Black pagoda)	..	476 0	444 0 0
			..	52 0	51 0 0
Cuttack	Cuttack	Annual repairs to Barabati fort	..	10 0	10 0 0
Jajpur	Jajpur	Repairs to ancient monuments	..	50 0	42 0 0
Angul	Sonepur	Ditto to Miss Amelia's grave	..	5 0	5 0 0
Cuttack	Jajpur	Construction of sand-stone masonry stair-case to the Abu Nasir Khan's Mosque	295 0	271 0 0	Completed
		Total	..	15,360 15 0	

C.—Statement of Expenditure on Archaeological Works in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1916-17.

District	Locality	Particulars of works	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
			Rs A	Rs A P	
Nagpur	Nagardhan	Annual repairs to Marhatta Fort just south of the village of Nagardhan	..	200 0 0	
Do	Dongatal	Annual repairs to Fort at the bottom of the hill at Dongatal	..	161 0 0	
Balaghat	Lanj	Annual repairs to Fort	..	25 0 0	
Chanda	Nei	Ditto to Mahadeo temple at Nei	..	67 0 0	
Do	Chanda	Ditto to Gonda Raja's tomb	..	71 0 0	
Do	Do	Ditto to Fort wall	..	528 0 0	
Balaghat	Gaihi	Ditto to Fort	..	30 0 0	
Do	Baihar	Ditto to temple	..	20 0 0	
Akola	Barsi Takli	Ditto to Bhowani temple	..	4 0 0	
Do	Narnalla	Ditto to Narnalla Fort	..	18 0 0	
Do	Pathur	Ditto to two caves	..	4 0 0	
Do	Balapur	Ditto to Fort at Balapur	..	116 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto to Chattri	..	25 0 0	
Amraoti	Lasur	Ditto to Anandeswar Temple	..	16 0 0	
Do	Chikakla	Ditto to Gwalgarh Fort	..	24 0 0	
Nagpur	Jnnapani	Ditto to Stone Circle	..	6 0 0	
Do	Ubal	Ditto ditto	..	6 0 0	
Raipur	Aiang	Ditto to an old ruined Jain temple	..	3 0 0	
Bilaspur	Jangri	Ditto to the large Vaishnava temple	..	9 0 0	
Chanda	Ballarpur	Underpinning the turret of the Fort wall at Ballarpur	715 0	183 0 0	} Completed
Akola	Balapur	Underpinning the old Chattri at Balapur	1,078 0	406 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Filling cracks, etc., in the inner and outer Fort at Balapur	1,927	560 0 0	} In progress
Amraoti	Lasur	Restoring the temple of Anandeswar at Lasur	12 851 0	210 0 0	
Do	Amner	Certain works in the tomb of Lalkhan	596 0	501 0 0	} Completed
Drug	Dhanda	Certain repairs to the Old Mahal and gate within the ruins of the Dhanda Fort	155 0	152 0 0	
Raipur	Sipri	Special repairs to the temple of Laxman and old sites including the sculptures close to this temple	17 0	19 0 0	} Completed
Nimai	Asargah	Repairs to the tomb of Shah Gohai	588 0	634 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Repairs to Idgah and front wall	70 0	56 0 0	} In progress
Do	Ditto	Carrying certain repairs to the Mahadeo temple inside the fort with side-room attached to the above	52 0	52 0 0	
Do	Bimhanpur	Certain repairs to the tomb of Nadrshah and compound	4,506 0	1,042 0 0	} In progress
Do	Asargah	Removing jungle from the Fort at Asargah	1,551 0	115 0 0	
Drug	Gandai	Dismantling and reconstructing the Mahadeo temple at Gandai	7,620 0	2,500 0 0	} Completed
		Carried over	..	7,763 0 0	

District	Locality	Particulars of works	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
			Rs A	Rs A P	
		Brought forward	.	7,763 0 0	
Saugor	Eran	Certain repairs to the Gupta monuments at Eran	182 0	44 0 0	In progress
Chhindwara	Deogairh	Certain repairs to the Fort at Deogairh	1,841 0	.	Works not taken in hands for want of funds
Bilaspur	Kharod	Annual repairs to the buck temple of Sawari, south of the village and small buck temple north of the village	.	3 0 0	
Drug	Deo Baloda	Annual repairs to Siva's temple in sand stone	.	21 0 0	
Do	Dhamda	Ditto Old Mahal and gate	.	24 0 0	
Betul	... Bhainsdehi	Ditto Mahadeo temple at Bhainsdehi	.	18 0 0	
Damoh	Hotia	Annual repairs to Rangmahal palace	..	33 0 0	
Do	Nohta	Ditto Nohta temple	.	1 0 0	
Do	Kundalpoore	Ditto one flat roofed temple below the Hills	.	5 0 0	
Saugor	Rahatgarh	Annual repairs to Rahatgarh Fort	...	489 0 0	
Do	Eran	Ditto ruined Jain Temple etc, at Eran	.	113 0 0	
Do	Bamoda	Annual repairs to temple	.	78 0 0	
Do	... Gajparha	Ditto Mahal (Fort) of the old Dungi Rulers	.	225 0 0	
Hoshangabad	Pachmar	Annual repairs to caves	.	15 0 0	
Nimai	Buahanpur	Ditto tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan	.	52 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto tomb of Adil Shah	.	53 0 0	
Do	Asargah	Ditto tomb of Shah Numa	.	45 0 0	
Do	Buahanpur	Ditto Chuniwalouki masjid outside the Itwara gate of the Buahanpur City	..	10 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Annual repairs to Raja's Chhatra near Burdaghah	.	28 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Annual repairs to tomb of Shah Shuja and compound	.	44 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Annual repairs to tomb of Nadir Shah and compound	.	25 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Annual repairs to Bibi Sahib's masjid and compound	.	97 0 0	
Do	Asargah	Annual repairs to Idgah	.	76 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto Mahadeo temple near the Inspection Bungalow with its compound wall	.	115 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Annual repairs to tomb of Shah Goum	.	115 0 0	
Do	Nimbola	Ditto ditto of Colonel Fraser	.	9 0 0	
Do	Asargah	Ditto to the whole fort including all walls	.	26 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Annual repairs to the temple in the Fort	.	24 0 0	
Do	Ditto	Ditto Jumna Masjid in the Fort	.	63 0 0	
		Total		9,614 0 0	

D.—Statement of expenditure on Archaeological Works in Assam during 1916-17.

District	Locality	Particulars of work	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	REMARKS
Cahar	Khaspur	Improvement to the Cachari ruins	1,547		No allotment
Do	Badarpur	Ruins of an old fort	34	22	
Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Annual repairs to monuments and antiquities	800	809	
Do	Dimapur	Ditto to ruins at Dimapur	320	324	
Do	Sibsagar	Special repairs to Sibdole temple at Gaurisagan	806	288	
Naga Hills	Khonama and Sachima	Annual repairs to memorials at Khonama and Sachima	46	36	
Darrang	Tezpur	Ruins of temple on the Baman Hill	60	60	
Do	Bishnath	Repairs to certain monumental tombs	20	19	
Goalpara	Dhubri	(1) Washing with soap and painting the monument over the grave of Mr G R Geale (2) White painting to railing posts of the monument over the grave of Mr R B Dunn (3) Repairs to cement plaster of the monument over the grave of Mr E. W. George	10	10	Completed
Goalpara	Jogighopa	Annual repairs to ancient tombs	20	20	
Do	Goalpara	Ditto to the tomb of Lieutenant Cresswell and three others	15	15	
Kamrup	Kamakhya	Annual repairs to Duar Gary a rock inscription at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill	10	10	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Shillong	Annual repairs to Manipur memorial	10	10	
Ditto	Cherrapunjee	Ditto Scott's monument	10	10	
Ditto	Nanglaw	Ditto monuments to the memory of Lieutenant Beadingfield and Burton	15	15	
Ditto	Ditto	Repairs to ancient monuments and other buildings of historical interest	50	50	
				1,698	

APPENDIX E.**List of drawings plotted and finished during the year 1916-17.**

- 127 Plan of excavations at Pahari
 128 Ditto ditto Nalanda (site No 1) Monastery and surrounding buildings
 129 Ditto ditto (No 1) Monastery
 130 Ditto ditto („ No 2) Temple

List of drawings plotted during the year 1916-17.

- 131 Plan of excavations at Nalanda (site No 1) Monastery (additional)
 132 Ditto ditto („ No 2) Temple (additional)
 133 Cross section through main wall, south verandah, and a room on south, in oldest monastery site No 1 looking west
 134 Plan of excavations at Nalanda (site No 3) Vihara
 135 Elevation of the stucco mouldings and figures on ditto, viz, the third (inner) structure at site No 3, Nalanda
 136 Elevation of the stucco-faced stupa inside two brick casings at site No 3
 137 Plan and cross section of the Eastern one of the two brick built "Caves" in courtyard of Monastery, at site No 1, Nalanda

APPENDIX F.

List of Photo-negatives prepared during the year 1916-17.

Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

[The negatives are all full plates]

(* Indicates half plate)

Serial No	District	Locality	Subject
1346	Malda	Gaur	Gunmant masjid, from south-west
1347	Do	Do.	Ditto interior showing decoration of vaulted arch
1348	Do	Do.	Darasbari masjid interior view
1349	Do	Do	Chika masjid after conservation, from south-east
1350	Do	Do	Ditto ditto from north-east
1351	Do	Do	Ditto ditto from north-west
1352	Do	Do.	Gomti gate
1353	Do	Do	Qadam Rasul, Khedim's quarters and portion of a tomb
1354	Do	Do	Dakhil Darwaza (showing southern face)
1355	Do	Do	Interior of Tantipara masjid, after conservation.
1356	Do	Do	Chankati masjid from east
1357	Do	Do	Baradwai masjid
1358	Murshidabad	Murshidabad	Diwankhana of Mir Jafar, general view
1359	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto closer view
1360	Birbhum	Nannur	Group of temples
1361	Ditto	Do	Ditto
1362	Ditto	Do	Another temples
1363	Ditto	Do	Details
1364	Ditto	Do	Ditto
1365	Ditto	Do	The so-called Basuli (Visalakshi)
1366	Bankura	Vishnupuri	Nandalal temple, from south-east
1367	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto from south.
1368	Ditto	Ditto	Shamiy temple from south-west
1369	Santal Parganas	Rajmahal	Sangi dalan
1370	Ditto	Ditto	Sangi dalan, closer view
1371	Ditto	Ditto	Munia Bibi's tomb
1372	Ditto	Ditto	Old tank near Munia Bibi's tomb
1373	Bhagalpur	Patharghata	Rock sculptures, after conservation
1374	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto
1375	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto
1376	Shahabad	Sassaram	Ink impression of Asoka edict
1377	Patna Pataliputra	Kumrahar excavation	Rampart wall, outer face from south-west
1378	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto outer face from south-west (another plate)

Serial No	District	Locality	Subject
1379	Patna	Pataliputra	Kumrahar excavation
1380	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto showing outer face from south west showing turning to south at the eastern end
1381	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto inner face, from north
1382	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto from east
1383	Ditto	Nalanda excavations	Panelled temple found in 1915-16, supplementary photographs of the sculptured frieze, with revised and final numbering of the panels, in serial order from right to left, filling gaps in the former series Panels 21-25 (corrected number)
1384	Ditto	Ditto	Panels 80-84 (being those at south end of the west wall now photographed for the first time)
1385	Ditto	Ditto	Panels 84-88
1386	Ditto	Ditto	Do 89-92
1387	Ditto	Ditto	Do 93-96
1388	Ditto	Ditto	Do 97-100
1389	Ditto	Ditto	Do 101-104
1390	Ditto	Ditto	Do 105-108
1391	Ditto	Ditto	Do 109-112
1392	Ditto	Ditto	Do 113-116
1393	Ditto	Ditto	Do 117-120
1394	Ditto	Ditto	Do 121-124
1395	Ditto	Ditto	Do 125-128
1396	Ditto	Ditto	Do 129-132
1397	Ditto	Ditto	Do 133-136 forming north end of frieze on west side of temple
1398	Patna	Nalanda excavations	Panels 192-194 north end of frieze on east side of temple which are now displaced
1399	Do	Ditto	Panels 195-198, showing the inscriptions
1400	Do	Ditto	Site No 2, view of south-east corner of plinth (from south-west) with panelled frieze, showing late wall built against panels Nos 21-25 and obscuring them (wall subsequently removed)
1401	Do	Ditto	Ditto to the above from north-east
1402	Do	Ditto	Site No 2 (panelled temple), general view of trenches above the main plinth
1403	Do	Ditto	Site No 2 Large stone plaque with seated Buddha
1404	Do	Ditto	Vihara site No 3, before excavation from north-east
1405	Do	Ditto	Ditto to the above showing initial trench.
1406	Do	Ditto	Ditto to the above from north, excavation in progress
1407	Do	Ditto	Colossal stone Bodhisattva found in site at north east corner of Vihara site No 3
1408	Do	Ditto	Fragment of stone pedestal inscribed with three rows of small seated Buddhas
1409	Do	Ditto	Site No 1, excavation of north-west quadrant of courtyard, initial stage

Serial No	District	Locality	Subject
1410	Patna	... Nalanda	Site No 1 showing arch of brick built cave in court-yard, initial stage of excavation
1411	Do	.. Ditto	Site No. 1 View of the two brick built caves with arched ceilings in court-yard
1412	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Rough dressed stone pillar found in court-yard
1413	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Topmost (latest) monastery, showing porch of central shrine on east side
1414	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 View in verandah of lowest monastery, showing cutting through the big wall exposing the buried parapet of the original monastery (looking north along east verandah)
1415	Do	.. Ditto	Ditto to the above (looking west, along south verandah)
1416	Do	Ditto	Site No. 1. Small stone statuette
1417	Do	Ditto	Ditto Moulded brick
1418	Do	Ditto	Ditto Three small stone statuettes
1419°	Do	.. Ditto	Ditto Inscribed stone statuette of Trailokyavijaya (front view) No 224.
1420°	Do	Ditto	Ditto Ditto (side view) No 224
1421	Do.	Ditto	Ditto to the above (back view shows the inscription) No 224
1422	Do.	Ditto	Site No 1 Stone statuette
1423	Do	Ditto	Ditto Fragment of a sculptured slab representing a central Buddha (missing) with attendant deities No
1424	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Large damaged statue found <i>in situ</i> at south-east end of verandah in the lowest monastery
1425	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Two small heads from attendant figures at bottom of statue in photograph No 1426
1426	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Lower half of large sculpture of Trailokyavijaya, found <i>in situ</i> at south-east end of verandah of lowest monastery
1427	Do	.. Ditto	Site No 1 Photograph showing bronze column with capital in position as found, on verandah of lowest monastery
1428°	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Bronze statuette No 370
1429°	Do	Ditto	Ditto Stone ditto No 144
1430°	Do	Ditto	Ditto Do ditto No 371
1431	Do	Ditto	Ditto Do ditto No 205
1432°	Do	Ditto	Ditto Do ditto No 371, back view showing inscription
1433°	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 Fragment of terracotta inscribed plaque
1434°	Do	.. Ditto	Another, ditto No 351
1435°	Do	Ditto	Ditto No 349
1436°	Do	Ditto	Ditto No 347
1437°	Do	Ditto	Site No 1 4 clay seals Nos 171, 263, 259
1438°	Do	.. Ditto	Ditto 3 ditto Nos 348, 159, 13
1439°	Do	.. Ditto	Ditto 3 ditto Nos 136, 228
1440°	Do	Ditto	Ditto, 1 ditto No 165

Serial No	District	Locality	Subject
*1441	Patna	Nalanda excavations	Site No 1 Clay seal No 359
*1441(a)	Do	Ditto	Ditto 2. Ditto Nos 346, 350
1442	Patna	Bhuvaneshvara	Lingaraj group, general view
1443	Do	Ditto	Ditto ditto (another plate)
1444	Do	Ditto	Ditto details from northern side of main temple
1445	Do	Ditto	Lingaraj group (another portion)
1446	Do	Ditto	Ditto south side of Mandapa
1447	Do	Ditto	Ditto minor shrines in the compound
1448	Do	Ditto	Ditto Trivikrama, on the north face of main temple
1449	Do	Ditto	Lingaraj group details from Parvati temple
1450	Do	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto
1451	Do	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto north view
1452	Do	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto south "
1453	Do	Ditto	Biamhaji-ka-ghat with Lingaraj and other temples behind
1454	Do	Ditto	Ruined Siva temple near Koti-tirtha
1455	Do	Ditto	Ditto at the Koti-tirtha from south-east
1456	Do	Ditto	Ditto at north-east of Vindu Sarovara
1457	Do	Ditto	Satughana temple, general view
1458	Do	Ditto	Ditto (facade)
1459	Do	Ditto	Ditto ditto (another plate)
1460	Do	Ditto	Ruined Siva temple, north of Koti-tirtha
1461	Do	Ditto	Street view with the Vetal Deni in the back ground
1462	Do	Ditto	Torana in front of Muktesvara temple
1463	Do	Ditto	Gaugua Nala Bridge, from south-west
1464	Do	Ditto	Ditto, from east
1465	Do	Ditto	Lingaraj's, 1atha, under construction
1466	Do	Ditto	Tiger cave
1467	Do	Ditto	Ganesa Gumpah
1468	Do	Ditto	Ram ditto
1469	Do	Ditto	Ditto (another plate)

Central Provinces and Berar.

505C	Nimar	Bulhaupm	General view of palace inside the fort.
506C	Do	Ditto	Ditto ditto closer view
507C	Do	Ditto	Nadri Shah's tomb from north-west
508C	Do	Ditto	Adil Shah's tomb ditto

Serial No	District	Locality	Subject
509C	Akola	Baisi Takli	Bhawani temple, general view from north-west.
510C	Do	Ditto	Ditto, close ditto south-west
511C	Do	Ditto	Ditto, ditto ditto south-east
512C	Do	Ditto	Ditto, front view
513C } 514C }	Amraoti	Ellichpur	Panoramic view of Dargah of Abdur Rahman Ghazi
515C	Ditto	Ditto	General view of buildings in the above
516C	Ditto	Ditto	Chhatra, near Daulat Bagh
517C	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto interior
518C	Ditto	Ditto	Dula gate
519C	Ditto	Ditto	Jivanpura gate
520C	Ditto	Ditto	Haripura gate
521C	Ditto	Ditto	Bharkul Daiwaza, from east
522C	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto from west
523C	Ditto	Ditto	Chank-kimsajid
524C	Ditto	Ditto	Darus Sofa masjid
525C	Ditto	Ditto	Imambara
526C	Ditto	Ditto	Nizammat masjid
527C	Ditto	Ditto	Idgah from north-west
528C	Ditto	Ditto	Do back view
529C	Ditto	Ditto	Tomb of Hazrat Ghulam Hossein and Shah Ismail Wali
530C	Ditto	Ditto	Jami masjid, front view
531C	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto, from north-west
532C	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto, from interior
533C	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto, interior (another plate)
534C	Ditto	Ditto	Gate-way to compound of Ismail Khan's tomb
535C	Ditto	Ditto	East gate and northern portion of enclosure of Ismail Khan's tomb
536C	Ditto	Ditto	Other tomb, in the compound of above
537C	Ditto	Ditto	A room in the Ismail Khan's tomb compound, showing missing Chajja
538C	Ditto	Ditto	Ismail Khan's tomb
539C	Ditto	Ditto	Hauz Katora
540C	Jabalpur	Jabalpur	Inscription slab on a wall in the Kotwali
541C	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto (to another plate)
542C	Ditto	Ditto	Sculptured pedestal, outside the Kotwali
543C	Ditto	Ditto	Lion gate of Kotwali (modern)
544C	Ditto	Bheraghat	Chausath Yogini temple, from north-west
545C	Ditto	Ditto	East gate of Chausath Yogini temple
546C	Ditto	Rajnath	Ink impression of Asoka edict

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
EASTERN CIRCLE,
FOR
1916-17.
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT,
PART II.

PART II.

Notes on places visited by the Officiating Superintendent.

BENGAL.

MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT.

Jafarganj—The Diwankhana of Mir Jafar.—The *diwānkhāna* of Mir Jāfar Ali Khān is situated in the vicinity of the Nizamat cemetery at Jāfarganj and a little over a mile to the north of the palace of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad. It is a fragile-looking brick structure consisting of a long central hall with a frontage of tall circular columns, a set of double storied rooms on the two sides, and a comparatively narrower hall behind. This edifice together with the *Makal Sa ai* or harem to the east of it—is said to have been erected sometime about the middle of the 18th century by the Nawab Ali Vardi Khan for his Paymaster General, Mir Jāfar, who resided here before he was elevated to the *Masnad*, after the famous battle of Plassey (25th June, 1757). Tradition also has it that the orders for the murder of Seraj-ud-Daulah were issued from this *diwānkhāna* and the deed perpetrated in a small room in the servants' quarters adjoining the harem. The audience hall, as also the harem, has all along been in the occupation and use of the descendants of Mir Jāfar and has been repaired and renovated by them at various times during the period of about a century and a half of its existence.

The last of the repairs was effected by the father of Faiz Ali Khan, the present head of the Jāfarganj family, who replaced the wooden arcade forming the frontage of the hall by the circular columns mentioned above and glazed the openings between these columns and above the doorways with coloured glass. In the earthquake of 1897 the building suffered terribly—the roof of the main hall came down entirely while other parts of the structure were also badly damaged. After this catastrophe this once beautiful and much cared for edifice fell into neglect and was in a most dilapidated condition when I visited it in June 1916 in compliance with the wishes of the Government of Bengal to prepare a conservation note for the guidance of the Public Works Department. At the time of my visit some portions of the superstructure were in imminent danger of collapse and in that way likely to cause considerable injury to the parts adjoining, trees had taken root in the floor of the building and on the top of some of the walls, and jungle was growing all over. There were huge cracks here and there and the roof had fallen in many places. The measures which I recommended and which are estimated to cost Rs. 469 are only by way of preliminary repairs to arrest the rapid decay of the fabric which at present threatens it, and consist mainly of such items as the eradication of jungle, the removal of displaced bits of masonry, the clearance of debris from inside the building and preventing the collapse of such portions of it as are cracked and leaky. When these repairs have been executed it will be time to consider further measures of conservation.

BIRBHUM DISTRICT.

Nannur.—Nannur is believed to be the birth place of Chandīdās, a Bengali lyric poet of the 14th century whose contribution to the literature of Bengal and to the growth of culture in that province is recognised to be of great importance. Before his conversion to the Vaishnavite faith, Chandīdās is said to have been a devotee of "Chandi, Duigā or Sakti" as the goddess is variously called, and was attached as a *pujari* to the temple of "Bāsuli," the site of which is now known as Chandīdās's Mound. A few years ago a black stone image of a goddess was discovered from this mound and people at once identified it with the image of "Bāsuli" worshipped by Chandīdās. The goddess is represented seated on a lotus throne with the right leg hanging down, and playing upon a musical instrument with two of her hands while in the extra two she holds a rosary of beads and an uncertain

object very much like a bundle of papers or a pile of palm leaves, as if reprinting a manuscript book. Near her right foot is shown in the act of worship a kneeling male figure holding a garland in both hands. The carving is beautiful and judging from its style appears to be a work of the Magadha school of sculpture and to belong to the 8th or 9th century A. D. But the description of the image of Basuli (Visālākshī) given in the *dhyanā* of the goddess* makes it highly doubtful if the present image could ever have been so called originally. It is a recognised fact, however, that fearing the pollution of their sacred idols at the hands of the Moslem conquerors, the Hindus buried them underground or deposited them in rivers, and when more peaceful times were restored these idols were taken out from their concealment and reinstalled in places of worship. Some confusion, therefore, in reappropriating these objects of adoration was but inevitable, and wherever the votaries were not possessed of sufficient knowledge to identify the particular image in question, it was only natural that they should be guided by such prominent characteristics as differentiated the male from the female deities and not bother themselves with minute details as to their various limbs, their posture or the objects held by them. Mr. R. D. Banerji suggests that it is quite likely that Chandidās himself may have worshipped the present image under the mistaken name of 'Bāsuli' and I see no reason to differ from him. This image is now kept and worshipped in a temple of modern construction which seems, however, to occupy the site of an older structure.

Besides the mound and temple just referred to there are a number of other temples in their immediate vicinity ranging in date from Chandidās's time to the latest structure in which the image of "Bāsuli" is now enshrined. Except the last named, all the temples are built in the Bengali style, and, though less important architecturally than on account of their association with the famous poet Chandidās, form a very interesting group of remains well deserving the attention of Government. I have recommended that these temples be declared protected under the Ancient Monuments Act and be brought on the books of the Public Works Department for repair and up-keep, for although some of the temples are still in religious use, the local votaries are financially unable to maintain the monuments in a manner worthy of the importance attaching to them. When the monuments have been declared protected and agreements with the owners concluded, the question of their repair and of laying out the area around them will have to be taken up.

H. PANDAY

* *Tantrasāra* quoted in introduction to *Chandidāser Padāvalī* edited by Nīratan Mukherjee, B.A., gives the following *dhyanā* of Visālākshī —

ध्यायेदेवीं विशालाक्षीं वसुजान्मन्दप्रभाम् ।
 विमुक्तान्मन्त्रिका चण्डालं रुद्धगण्डितक धारिणीम् ॥
 नागालङ्कार सुभगा रत्नान्वरधरा शुभाम् ।
 सदा खोडशर्षीया प्रसन्नास्या त्रिखोचनाम् ॥
 मुकुटमालावलीरम्या पद्मोद्गत पद्मोधराम् ।
 श्रवोपरि मङ्गादेवीं वटामुकुटमखिलाम् ॥
 शङ्खचक्रवर्तिदेवीं राघवक.भोष्ट दायिकाम् ।
 सर्वं सौभाग्यजननीं महावम्पत्युदाहरतम् ॥

Notes on places visited by the Superintendent.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Ellichpur.—I do not altogether understand the slight regard, amounting almost to neglect, with which Ellichpur has heretofore been treated. The official List of Antiquarian Remains speaks of it as "a well-known capital during the middle ages", but adds that "little now remains of the period anterior to 1720" except the Hauz Katora and the ancient water-channel, and, although it mentions a few memorials of the past, mostly of an 18th century date, says that none are of any particular interest from an archaeological point of view. I am not sure that any of the monuments actually specified are of any particular interest, but there are others, and inasmuch as the oldest mosque in the city goes back to a period two hundred years before the oldest monument in Burhanpur, I cannot see that Ellichpur as a whole can be said to have no archaeological importance. It is true that neither this nor any other mosque is any prodigy of architecture, nor of any special interest from the viewpoint of the traveller or sight-seer. But buildings going back to the fourteenth century have a claim on our attention for their very age, and since the history of Ellichpur is in large measure the history of Berar, it seems to me desirable that these monuments should be at least preserved. Fortunately, although hitherto no official measures of conservation have been attempted here, the local Muhammadan authorities themselves, particularly the present Khatib Sahib, K B Syed Azmat Hussain, and the present Quazi Sahib, Syed Hanifuddin, have exhibited a reverence for their ancient monuments and a spirit of self-help in their maintenance which are admirable as they are rare. Some of the buildings had at one time reached a stage of considerable decay, but these gentlemen have quietly and silently done their best to repair the damage as best they could by local subscription, and although some of the measures adopted could have been improved upon in some details, still, they have been on the whole well conceived for the most part and well carried out. Where lack of funds prevented their doing what they would have liked to do, and have led them to adopt temporary measures of a make-shift kind, I am now recommending that Government aid be given them to set the matter right. This is particularly applicable in the case of the Jamī Masjid.

✓ This *Jamī Mosque* is said to have been built in the time of Muhammad Tughlak, early in the fourteenth century, according to the chronicles of Ellichpur compiled, so I understand, by the father of the present Khatib Sahib himself, and largely drawn on by the Gazetteer. What the actual authority is for this precise date I do not know. But it is obvious from the architecture of the mosque itself that it is of a great antiquity, and I see no reason why the local ascription should not be fairly accurate. It is certainly one of the oldest, if not indeed the very oldest, mosque in the Central Provinces, and this fact alone would appear to constitute a claim on our attention. It is a long, not lofty building, built entirely of stone, with eleven plain (uncusped) pointed arches along the front, but the points of the arches are very slight indeed. Inside the area is divided by four ranges of double stone columns which with the back wall divide the floor into four aisles running of course north and south, as the mosque naturally faces toward the east. The eleven eastern bays thus formed along the front façade are covered with eleven very low and inconspicuous flat domes rising to a slight point, but the other bays, except those surrounding the central dome, are not so covered with external domes, apparently. This is due to the fact that, whereas the six central columns in each of the four ranges are made taller than those on the sides so as to give to the central portion of the mosque a greater height and stateliness, and the two columns in the centre of the third and fourth ranges are omitted altogether so as to leave an open central space before the chief mihrab, which space is covered by the large central dome, only this elevated central portion of the whole is roofed in the expected way. The much lower chambers at either side have terraced ceilings about half way up the walls, and these flat roofs are left open to the sky although the stone

walls enclosing them rise sufficiently above them for a second story in these areas. The mosque thus appears never to have been completely finished, and only the bays along the outer edge and above the loftier, central portion, have been covered with external domes. Doubtless the end chambers would also have been so covered had they reached completion. As it is, the façade of the mosque presents an unbroken skyline of uniform height, and the building seems all of equal elevation throughout, whereas, on entering, it has the appearance of being three-fold, the lofty, and now raised central space, with two much lower chambers one on either side. The greater elevation of the floor in this central part, I was told, is due to accident. The central dome collapsed some time ago, and buried the original floor throughout this area. When it was rebuilt, the débris was levelled over evenly, and this higher floor level was the result. It seems so very much in keeping with the whole design, however, that it is in no way an inharmonious element. When this main dome came down, it seems to have brought with it part of the wall above the arches forming the south side of the central area, and this wall has been rebuilt in ordinary brick-work which would be more offensive than it is were it not for the fact that, in common with the whole interior, it has been whitewashed so that one overlooks it, at first, completely. The main dome itself was rebuilt, like two of the small ones in the series south of itself, (including one on the front façade, fourth from the south-east corner of the mosque), with matting laid over a skeleton frame of wood and covered externally with tiles, and underneath the main dome, so as to conceal this crudity, a wooden ceiling was let in which conceals the interior from below. These tiled domes are make-shifts of the frankest kind and I hope that they can be replaced by proper stone domes like the originals, in course of time, for the mosque is well worth this much expenditure. Internally one of the most striking features of it is its extreme plainness and simplicity. The spandrels surrounding the central area show simple lotus medallions in relief, but otherwise there is no attempt at decoration anywhere except on the mihrabs themselves, and even these are phenomenally severe. Externally the most interesting decoration occurs on the short north wall. Here there were originally three openings or entrances, through arched passages, now closed by ramshackle wooden doors. The arches here are formed by three separate stones, one for each of the two sloping sides, and the third laid above them as a sort of key-stone. There is thus nothing of the true arch about them, although this key-stone is so carved as to have the appearance of a point. The arches are all uncusped, but the spandrels are decorated with medallions, and above them are brackets supporting flat canopies above which again are niche-like openings extending through the whole thickness of the walls, and thus forming true windows, but windows in the wall of the unroofed chamber described above. The brackets are formed of three stones each, corbelled out from the wall one above another, the lowermost one being so cut as to look like two projections, so that each series of corbels appears four fold to the eye. The outer edge of these brackets is decorated, but they are otherwise plain, and the whole effect is very pleasing. On the whole, the Jamī Masjid is now in good condition, thanks to the efforts of the Khatib Sahib and his friends. There are a few eaves stones missing over the front of the mosque, and some cracks in the outer wall which should be seen to, and a slight amount of jungle to be cleared away. But the main work required is obviously the restoration of the missing domes, or the replacing of the present tiled erections in a suitable material, as will be set forth in my conservation note. Here I will merely note that the restorations carried out in the time of Aurangzeb by Ali Mardan Khan, to which the Gazetteer refers, are said to have been rather in the nature of supplementary works than actual repairs. Thus the compound wall, the central tank for ablutions, the well, and the entrance gateway are ascribed to him. None of these are of any special interest, but the main mosque itself is of considerable attractiveness, and in view of its unusual antiquity, should be declared as Protected, and should not be suffered again to fall into such sorry disrepair as it must have exhibited a few years ago before the Khatib Sahib took the work of conservation into his own hands, thereby saving the structure for posterity.

Idgah of Sultan Imad-ul-Mulk—The severely plain but dignified Īdgāh ascribed to Sultān Imād-ul-Mulk (A D. 1347) is nothing more than, a very massive wall with crenellated top and a minar at either end, against which on the east face a raised platform has been built. This platform is approached by a lofty flight of steps, and is covered over with a sort of pavilion supported on arches and surmounted by a modern dome. The main wall was originally built of stone (I noticed sculptured fragments from some older temple built into it), but the various parts which have fallen at one time or another have been rebuilt largely in brick, except on the back side where stone patch-work has been carried out in very rough and ready style. At the north end of the main wall the width of the structure contains a very precipitous flight of steps giving access to the top, where, between the crenellations, runs a narrow passage or walk concreted over. This is said to leak and need re-fairing, but no further repairs seem needed to this venerable pile. Here again local effort has preserved the monument.

Bharkul Darwāza—According to the Gazetteer, the great stone gateway known as the Bharkul Darwāza dates from the same early period as the Jami Mosque and the Īdgāh, but personally I should prefer to have the date verified before accepting it. It seems to me doubtful if it can be so extremely old. At all events, it was once of considerable beauty and impressiveness, but now it is in such shocking ruin and so filthy a state altogether that there seems little hope of saving it. The masonry is very badly, even dangerously cracked in places; parts of it have fallen already, and the interesting maze of chambers against its inner face are all in utter ruin. To put the gate as a whole in good repair would cost a very substantial sum, I should suppose, and it appears to me that other remains in the Province have prior claims upon us. The Gazetteer speaks of it as a "favourite 'cold harbour'" in the hot weather; it is also from all appearances a favourite resort for other purposes as well.

Tomb of Dulha Shah Abdur Rahman Ghazi Ghaznavi.—Whatever the truth may be about this "apocryphal" saint, and whether or not Major W. Haig is right when in the course of his valuable chapter on the history of Amroht he says (Gazetteer, page 43) that presumably the Muhammadan generals slain at the battle of Kherla c 1400 A D furnished him with his local habitation in these parts, it is at least sadly true that as the Gazetteer remarks elsewhere the place as a whole is very disappointing and petty. The situation is picturesque, and the old stone wall which skirts the little river is of interest, but the individual monuments are of no archaeological value whatsoever, so far as I could see, and their modern whitewash and bright colour-wash deprive them of even the look of age. I do not recommend any conservation here, even if this is "the most famous of all the Ellichpur antiquities."

Darus Shafa ki Masjid—This mosque, ascribed in the Gazetteer to A D 1340, was built, according to the Khatib Sahib, by Abdul Qadu Khan-i-Jahan in A H 863, or A.D. 1445, a period with seems to me more probable. Apart from its antiquity the building has no very special interest, although it appears to me worth keeping from further ruin and decay. It is a stone structure, with five plain (uncusped) arches along its front, the spandrels being decorated with medallions, and above these arches are stone brackets to support the projecting eaves. In between these brackets are other lotus medallions, and above the eaves runs a decorated cresting, now ruined in its southern half, so that the whole has a more decorated appearance than the Jami Mosque, although even here the whole effect is one of simplicity and good restraint. At either end of the façade is a projecting tower-like structure like the lower part of a minar, but these do not rise above the cresting, and were apparently not designed as minars at all. If they ever were so continued, they afford us an earlier example of the corner tower than those at the Jami Mosque in Burhanpur which Cunningham thought were the oldest he had seen. But it is doubtful if they were so raised unless by small kiosks or ehhatris. The floor is divided into ten bays, all crowned by domes, but only three of these are of sufficient height to show from the courtyard. Their lowness appears confirmatory of the local tradition as to the building's age. As a whole, the building is in fair condition now, but

the south and back walls are both bulging in places. This is especially true of the back wall. Here there is a projection, containing on its inner side the main mihrab, and this is coming away from the main wall and has already lost its top. These defects and a few missing caves stones are to be made good, if Government approves, and certain leakage in the roof will need attention. These measures, though, need not be further specified at this place, but will be discussed in my conservation note. Here such repairs as have been carried out were apparently due to the public spirit of the Qazi Sahib, who deserves encouragement.

Hauz Katora—Whether the quaint structure known as the Hauz Katora dates from the same early period or not I have no means of telling with much certainty. I should suppose the sixteenth century was an early date for it. As it stands to-day it is a three-storeyed octagonal tower in the midst of a tank now much decayed and overgrown. Of these storeys the two lower ones are faced with sandstone, the upper one is brick, and the ruin which the Gazetteer speaks of is largely confined to this. On the whole the structure is not at all in so ruinous a state as I had expected to find it, and if the top is rendered water-tight, it will presumably stand a long time yet. Whether it is sinking gradually I cannot tell, but the water in the surrounding and silted tank is now a third of the way to the top of the lower arches in the monsoon season, which suggests sinkage, certainly. In any case, I do not recommend any further expenditure upon this tower at present than what has been indicated. The ruin is curious and interesting as a curiosity, but beyond this I see little of value in it, although it must have been at one time quite picturesque. On the sides facing the cardinal points are four series of four brackets each, with medallions in between, and these brackets evidently supported balconies, which will have added to the interest and attractiveness of the whole. But these are altogether missing now, unfortunately.

Dula and Jivanpura Darwazas—Of the monuments erected by the last Nawabs of Ellichpur, those namely of the family of Ismail Khan, who ruled subject to the Nizam of Hyderabad, toward the end of the eighteenth century, the great stone-faced city gates appear to me by far the most interesting and important. Only the actual gates and then bastions are of stone, the remainder of the wall being of brick, with brick crenellations carried over the gateways, too. Fortunately the Dula and the Jivanpura Darwāzas are both of them in good condition in the main, and then varied and picturesque carved ornaments are nearly as good as when first cut. But there is a serious crack in the wall to the right of the former gateway as one approaches from outside, and the wall on the other side is leaning badly inwards. If it is in any danger of falling, it might be buttressed perhaps, but this is not apparently called for now. The point of the main central arch seems weak and inclined to crack, but otherwise the Dula Darwāza is seemingly sound enough. In the Jivanpura Darwāza, however, in the brick-work to either side of the entrance on the inner side, two substantial trees have lodged, and threaten to destroy the masonry altogether, in course of time, if not attended to. The trees are short, but their roots are very stocky, and part of the masonry may have to be dismantled to get them out. Various other petty measures will be pointed out in my conservation note, but generally speaking the gateway is in an excellent state of preservation now, and should be kept so. It was erected in A. D. 1768, and is an ornament indeed to Ellichpur.

Nizamat Masjid—The Nizamat Mosque is a little more than one hundred years older than the gates, having been erected, the Khatib Sahib tells me, by Shah Beg Khan, in A. D. 1633. The structure is a plain stone building, with three plain arches on the front, two of which have been blocked up to half their height to keep cattle out, while a sort of hurdle has been laid across the central one. The various bays have vaulted ceilings, but no domes externally, the roof being flat and terraced. Apart from the fact that this roof is said to leak, the whole is in first rate condition constructionally, and is evidently well looked after. No conservation seems to me to be called for here.

Chhatra near the Daulat Bagh.—Close to the corner of the so-called Daulat Bagh, where this approaches nearest to the Tehsil offices stands a

fairly lofty dome supported on columns rising from a high stylobate. This is obviously, on nearest inspection, a tomb, and contains the grave of some lady now forgotten, so that I could not ascertain any authentic name for the monument at all. The tomb is, however, well built, and all in all a very graceful and pleasing structure, and I should be sorry to see it fall into neglect or to decay. The most interesting feature of it is the elaborate decoration of the interior of the dome, which is panelled in an unusual way in sculptured stone panelling, which is by no means lacking in effectiveness. As the identity of the lady who lies buried here cannot be ascertained, the date of the monument is also problematic, but the local authorities are agreed that the tomb is older than the period of Ismail Khan Nawab, and that it was the source of some of his decorative motifs on the gateways of the city and at the royal tombs erected for his family. The tomb, though nameless, is in very good condition still, and a little jungle clearing appears to be all it needs as yet. But I should be glad to have it brought on to the books of the Public Works Department to the end of its periodical inspection. It would be indeed a pity to have so pleasing a memorial of the past disappear from Ellichpur, when simple if timely repairs will suffice to preserve it almost indefinitely.

Neither the *Daulat* nor the *Nāmdār Bāgh* seems to me deserving of any attention from the side of Government.

Tombs of the Last Nawabs—The tombs of the last Nawabs of Ellichpur are by no means extraordinary buildings. They lie grouped together in one walled-in corner of a larger graveyard, itself surrounded by a high wall, at some little distance from the town. The enclosure is entered through a lofty and very stately stone gate, like those which adorn the city wall, and which is even more extensively than they covered with stone carved ornamental panels, suggested apparently in some measure by the unknown Chhatrī which has been described above. The entrance steps leading to this grand and imposing gateway have disappeared, and a few trifling repairs, to be specified in my conservation note, are requisite for the maintenance of certain of the tombs. But the present representative of the family, the Nawab Muhammad Yunus Khan, has expressed a desire to delay the cost himself. The Gazetteer would lead one to suppose that the largest of the tombs is that of Ismael Khan, the first and greatest of the line, but this is evidently a mistake, since the present Nawab, who had the goodness to accompany me on my visit to the site informed me that this was the tomb of Salābat Khān, while that of Ismael Khan is much smaller and less pretentious altogether. The outer wall of the main enclosure, to the left of the entrance and therefore where it skirts the royal tombs, is built up in a very interesting and picturesque way throughout its length but the entrance on the east is in no sense a "lofty gate," and of no interest at all. On the whole, the Gazetteer seems to me to have overestimated the architectural value of these monuments remarkably. As historical memorials, on the other hand, they have real claims upon us. The "very finejali stone lattice work" is, so far as I could determine, stucco work in every case.

Imāmbara—The Imāmbara built by Ghulam Husain Khan, according to the Gazetteer, or by Fateh Jang Khan, according to my informants, is a large walled compound with a wooden colonnade and various tombs and graves of no interest. It need never be an object of conservation at public cost. But I was glad to see that certain repairs were being carried out privately when I visited the place.

Chowki Masjid—The Chowk Mosque, illustrated in the Gazetteer in the Plate facing page 390, and there shown to be in a ruinous condition, has since then been substantially repaired by local subscription, and is now structurally apparently sound enough. It requires a little plastering and the compound wall is unsightly and insecure, but the structure of the mosque itself is evidently safe enough. It dates from the 18th century, and is of no particular architectural interest, except for its difference from the other mosques in Ellichpur.

Mom Jom Gumbaz—I see no interest whatever in this structure, and cannot understand where the Gazetteer gets the marble columns of which it speaks. It seems to me that there are several nameless tombs dotted

round the countryside near Ellichpur of larger interest than this, although none are fitting objects for public conservation, so far as I can see

THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY'S EXCAVATIONS AT NALANDA.

The preliminary account of the Nalanda excavations published in my Report for last year showed that our first trial trench had been led diagonally from south-east to north-west across the quadrangles numbered 2 and 1 on the plan published by Cunningham in volume I of his *Archæological Survey Reports* (facing page 28), and that after uncovering the north-west angle of quadrangle No 1, we had focussed our attention upon the southern monastery numbered 2. Here the work carried out in the season of 1915-16 sufficed to give us the main dimensions of the monastic complex, 203 feet east and west and 168 feet north and south, to prove a frontage towards the west, with certain projections leading to a grand staircase on this side, and to determine the existence of the main outer wall of this building still preserved to a height of some 24 feet when first disclosed. This main outer wall had at that time been examined only in one or two narrow cuttings, and I stated that whereas it then appeared to indicate a two-storeyed building, the cutting on the inside of the quadrangle disclosed reasons for suspecting that instead of one two-storeyed structure we were really concerned with two separate buildings, one built upon the other. The evidences of the two sides of the wall thus seemed to be conflicting, and the real explanation of the problem was left for later settlement. This year, on resuming work at this quadrangle, my first endeavour was to clear a wider surface of the main outer wall towards the west, and at the same time to widen the excavation of the inner court-yard, in its north-west quadrant. The former of these works disclosed nothing new. The main wall was found to be generally well preserved on its outer face throughout the northern half of its extent. It goes down throughout this length to a pavement some 21 feet beneath the highest point of masonry now extant, and to a slight depth beneath this even. But apart from the noticeable fact that it presented no openings of any kind except for some along its topmost edge, there was nothing remarkable about it. But as digging proceeded inside the courtyard, several points of interest were gradually disclosed. As was recorded last year, we had met, at no great depth beneath the top of the mound, the floor level of what seemed at first the second storey of our monastery. This was laid out in the usual way, with ranges of cells along the side opening onto a verandah running around the inner court, and edged on the court side by a low "parapet" wall. Since our clearance on the outside of the building showed only one continuous wall from top to bottom, it was to have been expected that on clearing the inner face of the same structure we should find one continuous wall also, with this low parapet as a sort of capping. I noted last year, however, that between this parapet and the top of the main wall there appeared to be a stratum of loose earth and débris, which as such ought to imply a break in the continuity of the structure, and to imply that we were dealing with two buildings of divergent age. This year it became apparent that there are in reality two such lines of débris intervening between the top of the main wall and the highest parapet, with a separate and distinct foundation wall intermediate between the two. This suggested that instead of one two-storeyed building, or two single-storeyed buildings, we really had three single-storeyed monasteries, one above another, or rather the basements of three monasteries which may or may not have been storeyed originally. It was further noticeable that in making the cutting necessary to clear the inner face of these separate walls one above another, we had passed through three separate pavements in the courtyard area. I accordingly took adjacent cells in the northern range of chambers, and by cutting through one half of the floor in each case but to progressively increasing depths determined the fact that here also there were three well defined levels of occupation, indicated now by three separate floors. This made it clear that the site had been repeatedly built over through successive ages, and as a twelfth century date was suggested (not proved) for the middle of our three levels by the occurrence just above it of a gold coin of

Govinda-Chandra, (c. 1112-1160 A D),* it was evident that both the upper monasteries were too late to be of special interest, and that we must penetrate to the lower levels to reach the goal before us. Even so, I judged it requisite to leave these upper structures as little disturbed as possible, at least for the present, and consequently restricted our deeper digging to the south side of the quadrangle, since here the walls were more ruinous than elsewhere (being unprotected by the abutment of adjacent structures), and we could pass through the later remains with a minimum of cutting. All the chambers of the lowest monastery were accordingly cleared in this southern range. They were found to be cells of the same general size and character as those in the later structures up above, and to present nothing calling for remark, except at the two angles of the building south-west and south-east.

On clearing the south-west angle, it appeared that here we were not concerned with an ordinary cell, but rather with a passage-way leading down to the verandah of the original monastery, with a (now ruined) flight of stairs giving access to a higher level, seemingly the level constituted by the top of the main brick wall. This would have confirmed our suspicion of a two-storeyed building had it not been for the fact that whereas this passage naturally occupied the position of the second cell from the west, and the stairs that of the first, in the actual angle, this angle had not originally been designed as stairs, but did contain a regular cell of normal type, over and across which the stairs had been built at evidently a later time. Another perplexing feature of the site was that the verandah to which this passage-way gave access, seemed necessarily to have been wholly blind. On this south-west corner we could not get to the actual verandah itself without cutting more of the superjacent pavements than I desired to cut at this stage, but we had by this time cleared the whole north-west quadrant of the inner courtyard and could see that the high brick wall surrounding it nowhere contained any openings at all, but was like the main outer wall, unperforated. How then light could have been admitted to the lower verandah inside this massive wall was problematic in the extreme, and one would have thought it some sort of basement had it not been for the fact that the walls, where we had cleared the passage, were too carefully constructed for such a purpose, and that they had been neatly plastered, as was shown by the remnants of the plastering still adhering to the surface here and there. These walls had clearly been expected to meet the eye. But how the eye could ever have seen them, in the complete darkness which the construction resulted in, was not easy to understand.

On excavating the second chamber from the south-east angle, a second passage-way was disclosed, corresponding in all particulars to the former one, except that in this case the actual angle was left as a cell, without any stairs having been led across it. But the problem of the unlighted verandah was rendered even more acute by the discovery in this passage of a series of pedestals, and the remains of certain statues, which proved that at some time the passage, and, (as was discovered later) the verandah to which it led, had been lined with rows of large and in some instances really splendid sculptures. It seemed out of the question to suppose that this wealth of statuary could ever have been deliberately erected in a position where no light could reach it. Theretofore I had been reminded of certain chambers found in the Taxila excavations, entered, and seemingly lighted, only by trap-doors from above, and had been tempted to see in our structure some sort of parallel to these. But it was difficult to imagine that any such contrivance could have sufficed to light the sculptures evidenced for the passage where we were. At the south-west, where nothing special existed to warrant a cutting of the upper pavements, I had done what I could to preserve them. But here, where we could see that a whole series of large sculptures had once lined the walls on the lowest level, there could be no question about the necessity of examining the area as thoroughly as possible, and I accordingly gave orders to cut through the pavements up above. At first an attempt was made, even here, to see if we could not scoop out the earth from underneath these later concrete

* Compare V Smith's "Catalogue of the Coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta," Plate XXVI, No 18, where an exact duplicate of our find is reproduced.

floors, hoping that the concrete would be strong enough to stand, permitting us to tunnel under it, without actually cutting it away. The experiment proved, however, that nothing of this sort could be done without extreme danger to our workmen; and as we were thus left with a choice between cutting through the floors and foregoing excavation, I cut the floors, and it is fortunate I did.

It was my assistant, Babu Hari Das Dutta, who first inferred from the sequence of pedestals along the wall, at the south end of the passage-way, that the whole verandah had once been lined with statues, with an optimism too courageous for myself at first. One large image of some Bodhisattva type now very badly shattered, and the undamaged lower half of a still larger statue of Trailokyavijaya, (identified by Mr R D Banerji), were still in position at this southern end, but the hope of finding the entire verandah lined with such treasures was too dazzling to be grasped. On reaching the actual verandah, however, the continuity of the pedestals showed that originally this priceless mass of sculpture had really existed, but alas! pessimism was justified to this extent, that all these pedestals were empty as we found them now. Babu Hari Das, though, had his reward on finding, as he turned the corner toward the west, a sort of small niche, built against the back wall of the verandah on this south side, and beside it a very fine bronze (or copper?) pillar, which had seemingly fallen from the top of it. This pillar is unique in my experience. It stands over four feet in height. The lower half is plain, but the upper is fashioned into a sort of capital, showing the form of a recumbent elephant surmounted by a maned lion, upon whose head rest two horizontal discs capped by a lotus-bud. What Hsuan Chuang tells us of one of the great monasteries here at Nalanda having been built by a king of "Central India" might tempt one to wonder whether there is any connexion between his account and this representation of the emblem of the Gond kings of the Central Provinces. But I fear that the device of a lion upon an elephant is too familiar even elsewhere in India to permit of any decision in the matter, unless the pillar prove to be inscribed. As yet, of course, it remains uncleaned, and whether it is inscribed or not, one cannot guess. It is now in two pieces, the capital having parted from the shaft, but otherwise it is very perfectly preserved; and if it ever did bear any writing, this will doubtless be discovered when the whole is chemically cleaned a work not possible of accomplishment at the actual site.

In addition to this interesting find, the southern side of the verandah yielded also one hand and one foot of some nearly life-size copper (or bronze) statue, presumably of the Buddha himself, since the fingers show that peculiar webbing characteristic of the Buddha's person. But no other fragments of this statue have been found.

Several good seals were also recovered in this general area, but not on the lowest level. They seem to have been included in the waste material used to make one of the rude concrete floors which we were obliged to cut through, and some of them are fragmentary. These include two or three terracotta plaques some inches in diameter, which must have been very fine originally. One shows a partial device in which a very well modelled bull figures, with accessories. Underneath has evidently been a long and valuable legend in several lines, but this is largely gone now. Another, smaller plaque, whose device is obscure but which may have been a Gaurā with Vishnu, has contained at least nine lines of writing, perhaps ten, but the right hand half of the plaque is missing, and the purport of the whole has not yet been made out. It is particularly unfortunate that this plaque is incomplete not only because of the greater age of its writing, (possibly sixth or even fifth century A D, whereas most of the others are of a later age), but also because from the lettering which is preserved it appears that the inscription included some sort of royal genealogy. The titles *Śrī-Mahārāja* and *Mahā-ājādhu-āja-Śrī*—occur repeatedly and twice *Avahādēvyām* can be made out, but in some cases the entire name is gone, and in others only a few *akṣaras* remain. In the sixth line, "*—hārāja-srī-Jarā—*" appears clearly legible, but the *akṣara* following the *rā* is not clear to my eye. However, despite its fragmentary condition, most of what is preserved will doubtless prove legible ultimately.

Another fragmentary plaque of smaller size was found, (in the north-west quadrant of the courtyard), where again a royal genealogy has been broken off, portions of six lines of writing, no one of them complete, being now visible. Here again the titles *Mahārājādhuāja-Srī*—and *Mahādevī-Srī*—are discernable, but the names are gone, except at the very end, where fortunately *Mahārājādhuāja-Srī-Pārsah* is still visible. But I have not yet been able to trace this royal name.

Speaking of inscribed material of this class, I may mention that the season's yield of seals has been fairly good. As might have been expected, the commonest of our types is the seal of the *Srī-Nālandā-Mahāvihāry-Ārya-Bhikṣu-Saṅghasya* or 'Venerable Community of Monks in the Great Vihāra of Srī-Nālandā'. Of these we have over twenty examples, in practically pristine condition. In shape they are circular, (diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ "), and the device, which occurs in the upper field, above a line of dotted ornament, consists of the Wheel of the Law flanked by two gazelles, recumbent, with heads upraised, looking toward the Wheel. This is the most interesting feature of these seals, because it shows that the Venerable Community of Monks at Srī-Nālandā copied on their seal the insignia of the monastery at Sārnāth. At Sārnāth, the site of the famous "Deer-Park" where Gautama began his ministry, or first turned the great Wheel of the Law, in Buddhist phrase, this device is appropriate and intelligible enough. Why Nālanda should have copied it, however, is not yet known to me. At all events, some connection between the two would seem to be clearly indicated, but a nearer definition of that connection is not possible for me.

I do not propose to give any exhaustive list of the seals in this preliminary Report, but one more may be mentioned hurriedly. This is a very fine example of an official seal of the Gupta period. It, too, is circular, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, and shows the Gupta device of Lakṣmī with the celestial elephants. The legend is beautifully clear, and reads apparently *Nagara-bhuktau Kumār-Āmaty-Ādhikarānasya*. On the analogy of the Basrah seals this should mean "(seal) of the office of the Crown Prince's Minister at Nagara-Bhukti," but "Nagara-Bhukti" is to us an unknown place-name. In the sharpness of its impression and the perfection of its preservation, this seal is inferior to none that I have ever seen. I would ascribe it to the fifth or sixth century A. D.

Returning now to the problem of our dark verandah with its rows of statues; it should be noted that as we came into it from the south-east, and turned the corner towards the west, we found the south wall of the same careful construction as the inner walls at the opposite corner, described above. The opposite wall, however, namely the wall edging and enclosing the verandah on its north side, was of altogether different construction, and was very rough. In this position we had expected of course to find the inside of what appeared from the courtyard to be the main wall. From the courtyard this wall was seen to be beautifully built, and the inner face of the wall was expected to present, when viewed from the verandah inside, an equally well-finished surface. The roughness of the wall actually met with in the verandah suggested that it was not the same wall as that seen from the courtyard, and the fact that this rough surface did not go, in depth, to so great a level as the smooth face on the court side, seemed to confirm the doubt of the identity of the two. Indeed, Babu Hanu Das observed that the pavement of the lowermost verandah actually ran underneath the alignment of this rough wall. All this seemed to demonstrate that the rough wall on the north edge of our lowest verandah inside was not the main wall, and we accordingly felt in underneath it, expecting to meet the smooth inner face of the main wall somewhere behind the alignment of the rough one. Instead of this we came upon a low but definite "parapet" skirting the courtyard on the level of the lowermost verandah in the same way as the parapet up above skirted the courtyard of the latest or top-most monastery. It also became apparent that the rough wall which had been baffling us theretofore had no normal footing. It had been seen to stop some two or three feet above the pavement of the verandah. This was found to be true, however, of only its directly vertical face on the southern side. In actuality it did go down to a lower depth, but obliquely instead of vertically, below the

point mentioned. The unusual configuration was moreover observed to correspond with the stratification of the débris burying the verandah, that is to say, the mass of fallen brickbats which had poured in a shower from the ruined superstructure of the cells around this verandah, forming a steeply sloping scarp burying the low parapet, over which the rough wall had then been built. As this gave the clue to the problem, a bold cutting through the rough walling was made, which set completely free the south-east corner of the original parapet and gave us the solution of our problem.

This low parapet was found to be studded at intervals with large flat stones, which were recognizable as the supports of pillars, now no longer traceable. From this it was clear that originally, when the oldest monastery was built, the verandah on its inner side had been enclosed merely with an open colonnade. The statuary indicated by the now empty pedestals and our few sculptural fragments had been placed in this colonnade, and was thus lighted in a perfectly simple and normal way. The time came, however, when this original monastery fell into disrepair, and when the monks resident in it removed to some other site, taking their sculptures with them. Presumably the abandoned site was then left alone for some long period. During this interval, the superstructure gradually fell down, and the scarp of débris formed, covering the parapet, and burying the whole verandah to a considerable depth. It was only at a later date that a return was made to this same site, and a new monastery, represented now by what has hitherto been described as our "main wall," was erected over the ruin of the older one. Thus the "main wall" was not really original at all, but secondary. In building it, moreover, the débris of the original building seems to have been as little disturbed as could be contrived. Some excavation was evidently unavoidable in the courtyard, to give access to a firm foundation for the new and necessarily lofty walls, but these were thus firmly based only on the courtyard side, which side, as being visible to the eye, was carefully constructed. The inner face was not to be visible, and it was therefore left rough, and, as a measure of rather slovenly economy, it was built up against the slope of débris, instead of being squared in the usual way after this débris had been excavated. Thus the darkness resulting in the lowest verandah was immaterial, since in the case of the new building, the ground level was not the original one, but on the level of the top of what had seemed the main wall to us, this being in reality only a plinth for the new monastery, made lofty by the necessity of the case. As the floor level of this second monastery, enclosing the débris of the first and original one, was the third of our floors seen from the surface of the present mound, it is evident that this process of rebuilding was carried out through successive ages. When the second structure, with the main wall of which we have just now dealt, fell into ruin in its turn, the site was abandoned for the second time. Then, after an interval, the monks again returned, and the same process of building over the ruins was carried out, for the construction of the third monastery to stand upon this spot. This is the structure giving us what seems the second of our pavements when digging from the top to-day. This in its turn underwent the same series of processes, until, at some apparently mediæval date, the remains of all three ruined buildings were built over for the last time, and there arose on this spot that monastery the cells of which meet us now just below the grass, on the highest level of occupation which this site has known.

Whether the lowermost of the four monasteries here described was indeed the real original, or whether there lie remains of yet an older one beneath it, cannot now be determined. So far, evidence has been found for only the four separate and successive structures which I have described. But these are enough and more than enough to prove the continued, although not exactly continuous, occupation of the site through many centuries.

One interesting feature of the second structure remains to be mentioned, namely, a curious sort of house built out into the courtyard from the north side of the high plinth, and presumably balanced by a corresponding house projecting north from the south side in the area not yet opened up. This house is built of brick, like everything else at this site, and is remarkable chiefly as containing two chambers which from their construction seem to have

been imitations of the rock-cut caves for which this province is famous. As these caves are cut with curving ceilings, their imitation here has necessitated the covering of these chambers with a vaulted roof, which constitute not actually the first but among the first examples yet found in India of a true arch constructed on the arch principle, prior to Muhammadan influence. No exact date can as yet be assigned to this building, but that it is pre-Muhammadan, seems certain, and this invests the arch with real importance. The bricks seem to have been specially made for the purpose. They are not very large for ancient bricks, and not squared in the usual way, but laid as stretchers with the sides a little slanted, but there seems to be no real key-stone in our modern sense.

Of these two vaulted chambers, the one to the east was first met with in our digging, and was found to have lost the front or southern third of its ceiling at some unknown point of time in the past, and a considerable cavity had formed in the north half of what remains. The second chamber was at first inferred only, because the entrance to it, from the small verandah or platform led along in front of the two "caves" on their south side, had been bricked up in antiquity, and only the irregular coursing of this filling remained to indicate the existence of a chamber in this part. Excavation disclosed that such a chamber had existed here, however, but a large part of its roof had fallen. This may or may not account for the closing and bricking up of the room. At least no other reason for this proceeding was disclosed, for the hopes which were at first entertained that the "cave" would disclose deposits of some kind were disappointed. Neither "cave" contained any minor finds of any kind.

The verandah in front of them, however, yielded several sculptural fragments of some interest, including one very good plaque of the Eight Chief Incidents in the Buddha's life, of which the Mahāparinirvāṇa alone is missing. This plaque seems to have been placed originally in a niche in the wall between the doors of the two "caves," and was found lying on the platform in a shattered condition. The pieces were collected with care, and the whole can now be patched together with some success. What it is made of cannot be said. It may be some sort of paste, as Sir John Marshall suggests, or it may be some specially fine and delicate stone. At all events, the execution is noticeable for delicacy, and the piece will be prized in the Bankipore Museum, despite its shattered condition.

Another sculptural fragment found on this verandah shows the lower part of some central seated figure, with many smaller figures on thrones around it. The piece is incomplete and no interpretation can as yet be attempted; but the workmanship is something out of the ordinary, and even partial as it is, it constitutes a find of interest. In general atmosphere, it seems to me to show some northern influence, reminding one of work from Nepal or Tibet, but it would not be permissible to assign it with any definiteness on this basis alone. But it seems to be almost certainly a product of some late school of Buddhism.

Near these artificial "caves" in that quadrant of the courtyard which has now been cleared, (*i.e.* the north-western), a very large and well-constructed ancient well has come to light, with a circular brick collar resting upon and overhanging a square brick basement. As this well is of unusual size, and as it lies in the most southerly of all the monasteries, I was at first inclined to trace a connexion between it and what the Chinese Pilgrim tells of the miraculous well inside the south gate of the main wall—according to the published translations of the Chinese text. On comparing the original, however, I came to the conclusion that this translation was open to doubt, and that in reality the wall referred to in this passage was not the main enclosing wall of the entire precinct, but rather the wall of the Tāi-tō temple on the north. On referring the point to my colleague, Mr. Taw Soan Ko, my interpretation was I am glad to say confirmed. This removes any possibility of our present well being the one mentioned by Hsuan Chuang, but at the same time it corrects a misapprehension in regard to the main wall which is of moment to the explorer here. As the text has been translated by Beal (and in this respect Watters' comment does not help), the whole of the sacred precinct had been enclosed by a single wall, whose one and only entrance had seemed from this

translation to have been located on the south. It is useful to the excavator to have this error corrected, for in reality the passage from which this idea is drawn says nothing about the main wall at all, and the position of the single entrance is thus left wholly undicated. Indeed the whole question of this main wall requires rather careful reconsideration, to my mind, but a preliminary report is not a suitable place for the discussion of such themes.

As regards our Site No. 1, therefore, (Cunningham's Quadrangle No. 2), the year's work has cleared up many problems of no little antiquarian interest, and has restored to us a considerable part of some important ancient monuments whose complete clearance is only a question of time and funds. It has also yielded a considerable number of small antiquities, especially ancient seals and single statuettes, of interest and beauty, and may be looked upon as having amply borne out the promise of the previous year. The people of Bihar have every reason to be grateful to the Royal Asiatic Society for having made possible the undertaking of this work.

Site No. 3.

In addition to the digging carried out at the monastic site No. 1, preliminary work was done also at the Vihāra site opposite to this monastery, at what for our purposes will be denominated Site No. 3, the high mound marked A on Cunningham's old plan. The work has not yet advanced far enough for a detailed report to be desirable, but enough has been done to enable me to state that at least three structures have occupied the site, but in a different way and on a different principle altogether from the successive erections at Site No. 1. The mound which stands at this spot, a little southwest of the monastery, is one of the extended chain of mounds lying in line north and south on the west of the little plateau formed by the buried quadrangles of the 'university'. Most of these so-called Vihāra mounds are very lofty. So, too, was the mound numbered A by Cunningham, and, moreover, it was found that it was almost solid brickwork. The soil covering it was, in its upper portions particularly, found to be very scanty indeed, and clearance with *kurpis* laid bare a solid mass of brick rising to a great height above the fields. This was sub-divided internally into what might be described as a series of small square or rectangular cells. As the walls are all rough, however, and no floors have yet been found, it appears to me more likely that we are really dealing with a stupa of which these walls are merely intended to distribute the pressure of the core, as the radiating walls did in certain of the stupas I have opened elsewhere. This outer mass of brick-work had fortunately fallen into decay in some few places, and here it became apparent, as the work advanced, that it had been built over a second structure, whose terraces and steps could be clearly traced in certain parts. As this second structure was in turn set free, where this could be done with a minimum of disturbance to the outer one, it too was found to be in the nature of an accretion, for it too had been erected over the standing ruins of a yet older building to which access was gained through certain gaps. Of this innermost structure only small parts have as yet been cleared, but it is already evident that it was covered with stucco and was adorned with a series of rather fine stucco figures, several of which we have now cleared, and found to be in excellent condition even now, despite the fact that at least twice the whole has been rebuilt in later times. In the case of the monastery, rebuilding took place only when the previous monument was completely ruined. Here they do not seem to have waited for this but to have enlarged the original stupa at successive intervals by completely enveloping it in new masonry. The principle is a familiar one in the case of stupas, but nowhere have I seen it better exemplified than here. We have as it were successive integuments of masonry, with the oldest monument still fairly intact within them all and well preserved. Obviously, the opening out of such a site will be of very real interest. But it must be done slowly and painstakingly, if the outer envelopes are not to be unduly sacrificed in the process.

So far only the north side of this mound, with about half of its east face, have been cleared. On the former side, standing in its original detached chapel, (of which the foundations only are preserved), my Overseer, Babu

B L Ghose, had the fortune to find a large standing figure of a Bodhisattva still *in situ*. This is of black stone, of more than life-size, and save for a fracture to the nose and injury to one hand, is perfectly intact, with an inscription on the back, of early mediæval date. Otherwise, however, site No 3 yielded this year very little in the way of sculpture, and is of importance chiefly for its structural interest and for the valuable stucco decoration on its innermost core. Though whether this third and now innermost core will not by and by be found to be itself secondary cannot be determined yet. There may be still an older core inside of this.

Site No. 2.

Site No. 2 is the temple plinth uncovered last season, where the frieze of sculptured stone panels was disclosed. The present year has added nothing new to the story of this site, except that the back or west side has been now set free and the photographic record of the frieze has been completed with exactitude. Certain clearance was attempted in the central portion of this plinth, that is to say, in what must have been the inside of the temple, but beyond disclosing an extraordinary mass of fallen stones, and a solid basement of stone construction, nothing of interest has yet been found. Complete clearance will doubtless be necessary as the work proceeds, but it is not yet suggested by the site itself that much in the way of small antiquities will be disclosed.

Before closing the present report it is perhaps desirable to state that all possible precautions have been taken, on the advice of the Department of Public Works, and with its assistance, to safeguard the ruins now disclosed against damage from this season's monsoon. As the buildings are as yet in all cases only very partially cleared, no final programme of conservation is yet possible. This will be undertaken as soon as the progress of the work admits, but for the present season such measures as are practicable have been taken to prevent the collection of water in the excavated areas or the fall of walls. This has involved filling in certain of the diggings, notably those parts of site No 3 where the stucco ornament was disclosed, but as drainage in this case was quite impossible, such filling could not be avoided. The measure is purely temporary, of course. Ultimately, when the excavations have advanced sufficiently, a systematic drainage of the area can be effected and thorough-going conservation can then be taken in hand.

The expenditure incurred this year is given in paragraph 3, of Part I, and the photographs taken are listed in Appendix F. It is hoped that several of these can ultimately be reproduced in the Annual of the Director General, for which a more detailed statement of the work carried out so far must be reserved.

D B. SPOONER

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
EASTERN CIRCLE,
FOR
1916-17.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.
PART II.

PART II.

Notes on places visited by the Assistant Superintendent.

BENGAL.

BANKURA DISTRICT.

Vishnupur.—I visited Vishnupur in order to familiarize myself with the monuments at this important centre and also to select a site for erecting a new cook-house near the temple of Madan Gopal. Some of the repairs recommended by Mr Blakiston have already been completed while others are in course of execution. On the whole the monuments are in a fair condition and require only a few repairs and some supervision to keep them so. I have drawn up a conservation note which is in the press and will be submitted to Government in due course. The erection of the new cook-house proposed for the Madan Gopal Temple just mentioned requires a word of explanation. This temple was brought under the operations of the Ancient Monuments Act in June, 1913, and in July Mr. Blakiston advised the discontinuance of cooking in the verandah of the main temple. The Public Works Department authorities failing to put a stop to this practice sought the assistance of the local Deputy Magistrate. This officer, however, decided that as the practice had been in vogue for the last forty years it could not be interfered with now, and suggested that a new cook-house be erected if cooking in the main temple were to be stopped. It is not my province to criticise the decision of the local civil officer so far as its legal aspect is concerned; but such a decision, in my humble opinion, very much curtails the powers of Government in the matter of reclaiming ancient monuments from such misuse or wrong use to which they may have been subjected before they were declared protected under the Act. And if the same arguments be adduced in every case it would be impossible to administer the Act in regard to the majority of the ancient monuments in this Circle—for it is only seldom that one meets with a monument of the past which has not been put to some use inconsistent with its original character and that such use is not of considerable duration. In this connexion, it is interesting to note that many buildings in the Lahore and Delhi forts which were in the use of the military authorities ever since the forts came into British hands, have been made over to the Archaeological Department in the Northern Circle, while even in this Circle many such edifices in the Central Provinces and in Bihar have been similarly treated. As all the temples at Vishnupur wherever *Bhog* was offered to the idol were provided with a separate and detached cook-house, and as it was admitted by the headman of the quarter of the town in which the temple is situated, on the occasion of my visit, that cooking in the main temple was not consistent with orthodox custom, the assertion on the part of the local *pujaris*, of a right to cook in the verandah and thus cause disfigurement of a national monument is deplorable. On the advice of the Superintendent I have addressed the Government of Bengal in this matter requesting such action as may be necessary to prevent the application of similar arguments in the case of other monuments in the Presidency.

BIHAR AND ORISSA:

SHAHABAD DISTRICT,

Chainpur.—The most important monument at Chainpur is the mausoleum in which lie the earthly remains of Bakhtiyar Khan who though unknown to history appears from the magnificence of his tomb to have been a man of consequence in that locality*. This monument is of considerable interest to the Archaeologist inasmuch as it resembles in appearance and style generally the

* There is a tradition that his son was married to the daughter of the Emperor Sher Shah.

well-known tomb of Hasan Sur Shah at Sassaram and appears to be of the same date. The repairs which were started here in 1914 have now been completed and the work speaks well of the care and supervision bestowed on it by the Public Works Department. The appointment of a watchman who would be always present at the tomb will prevent damage to the monument, and will help to keep the compound clean and tidy.

PURI DISTRICT.

Bhuvanesvar.—To the student of Indian Archæology, the splendid group of temples at Bhuvanesvar is too well-known to require any description here. As examples of a distinct style of architecture which prevailed in this part of the country from the 7th to the 11th century. A.D., without apparently having been influenced from outside, these temples afford a unique opportunity for the study of the evolution of Indian Art during this period and their importance in this respect can hardly be exaggerated. Their unique position among the ancient monuments of India more than justifies the attention they have hitherto received and are to receive in future from Government in the matter of their repairs and up-keep. I visited Bhuvanesvar between the 20th and 26th March in order to examine on the spot an estimate for repairs to the temples at that place framed on the recommendations of Mr. Blakiston (*vide* his conservation note, dated 12th November 1913) and to report as to the advisability or otherwise of bringing under the operation of the Ancient Monuments Act certain of the privately-owned temples at Bhuvanesvar. The estimate has been returned to the Superintending Engineer, Orissa Circle for revision in the light of the remarks made by me on the body of the estimate after my inspection of the monuments. A sum of Rs. 3,369 has been sanctioned for expenditure during the current financial year for repairs to the monuments at Bhuvanesvar and the Superintending Engineer has been advised to utilize this sum for the necessary repairs to those monuments in the first instance which are already protected and in the custody of Government. On my return from Bhuvanesvar the question of declaring some more of the monuments at that place as protected under Government was discussed with the Superintendent, who has now recommended the declaration of ten more temples of which eight are still in daily religious use.

With regard to these temples, it appears to me to be a matter of urgent necessity that definite rules should be framed, and a copy of these set up in each one of the protected temples, regarding their accessibility for purposes of inspection and study. At present the practice that prevails is far from satisfactory. I was informed that Public Works Department officers enter into the sanctums with their shoes on and the Public Works Department Chowkidar locks the doors to the inconvenience of local votaries. This offends the people and the intention of Government in the matter of protecting monuments is to a very great extent misunderstood. Such misunderstanding is very prejudicial to the proper up-keep of the monuments and appears to have so far resulted in this that in restoring some of the privately-owned temples the local people have not only not sought the advice of the Archæological Department but have been very touchy when any advice was voluntarily offered.

Speaking generally the local *pujaris* are too poor to maintain the temples owned by them and these being the sole source of their income they are not in favour of making them over to Government for the purpose of conservation, because they understand that such an action on their part means total stoppage of all worship. As Bhuvanesvar is visited by Hindu pilgrims from all over India, it is advisable that early steps be taken to explain the real intentions of Government in protecting and preserving these monuments.

I had a talk with one of the members of the Lingarāj Temple Committee and also with the Collector of Puri on the subject of framing rules for the visiting of these temples and I think it would not be difficult, if a judicious move is made, to secure accessibility of non-Hindu students and visitors inside the compound of the temples where worship is even now going on. But as an assurance that Government does not intend any sacrifice to the objects

of worship it will, in my opinion, also be necessary to lay down in the rules that non-Hindus will not be allowed to enter into the *sanctums*. I also think that if the Temple Committee be moved to exert itself, the compound of the Lingarāj may be made accessible to non-Hindu students and visitors (at least at certain periods during the day when *Bhog* is not being offered), provided they take off their shoes.

Some such action at the present moment is necessary to prevent any misunderstanding of the Government intention on the part of the people and also to guard against the ruin to which these temples in the absence of Government supervision and up-keep are sure to be exposed. Some of the temples which are now abandoned are being used as quarries and the carved stones, some of them of value and interest, are being utilised for secular purposes in the houses of the *Pandas*.

I am not sure if it would not be possible to arrange that the local *pujari* be made a Chaukidar of the monument and be responsible for preventing any damage to and disfigurement of the temple under his charge. If the local *pujari* be induced to enter into an agreement with Government for the above purpose, I consider this arrangement to be the most satisfactory (there should be provision in the agreement to prevent the *Panda* from being lax in his duties. A small payment per month will perhaps also be necessary).

Whether or not the Temple Committee succeed in arranging for the admittance of non-Hindu students and visitors in the compound of the Lingarāj at certain hours of the day, I think the Lingarāj group should be treated as a special case and the conservation of some of the temples which are badly in need of repair, should be taken up by Government, if that course does not give rise to any suspicion in the minds of the local people and to consequent misunderstanding and possible trouble. Some of the figure-sculptures adorning the niches of the Lingarāj temple on the outside, have been repaired. This work is so crude and ugly that it detracts very much from the value of the sculptural decorations, and if this practice be allowed to continue it would not be long before the whole monument is disfigured by such modern alterations and be divested of all the interest and value which attaches to it from an architectural and artistic point of view.

The *pujaris* here try to imitate the custom which prevails in the temple of Jagannāth at Puri, though it is admitted that all of this is neither justifiable nor reasonable because whereas the temple of Jagannāth is a Vaishnava shrine, that of the Lingarāj is Saiva. I have prepared an inspection note to the above effect which is now in the press and will be forwarded to Government in due course.

Khandagiri.—I visited the Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves on the 24th March 1917 and prepared an inspection note recommending an increased amount of attention to the proper up-keep of the caves which is now in press and will be submitted to Government duly. Since my visit Mr. R. D. Banerji of the Archaeological Section, Indian Museum, who went to prepare estampages of the Hāthigumpha inscription of Khāravela for the Government of Bihar and Orissa, reports to have noticed water trickling through a few holes in the junction between the rock and the stone-shed erected in 1903 on the recommendation of the late Dr. T. Bloch. As the inscription is of exceptional interest and importance, it is a matter of urgent necessity that steps be taken to prevent the slightest damage to such a priceless monument, and I have accordingly written to the Superintending Engineer, Orissa Circle, to have the place examined by a competent man and to send to me at an early date, the proposals for the repairs that are needed.*

Puri.—The Great Temple of Jagannāth is in good condition. Some years ago the sculptures which decorated the exterior of the main shrine were coated with plaster which has resulted in making the work look shockingly bad.

Owing to the sacredness which attaches to this temple and the hitherto uncompromising attitude of the devotees any interference on the part of Government in this matter is out of the question, but the work as it now

* The Superintending Engineer has since written to the effect that the leakage in the cave has been successfully stopped.

stands is a reproach to the artistic sense of the community and it is up to them to take early steps to remove it

THE SANTAL PARGANAS DISTRICT.

Rajmahal—Sangi-dalan.—The Sangi-dalan (marble pavilion) is a small building consisting of a row of three moderate sized apartments with a low terrace in front situated at the very edge of the right bank of the Ganges to the west of the cemetery and the kutchery. A few beams which project from the building on the river-side have been supposed by the author of the District Gazetteer of the Santal Parganas to indicate "the existence of underground rooms" (page 274). They appear to me, however, to be the remnants of a projecting balcony—a feature more in conformity with the nature of the structure which, if my identification is not wholly incorrect, is noticed by Montgomery Martin at page 76 of his "Eastern India," Volume II, as forming part of the large palace complex described under the name of Sangi-dalan, and where according to him "the prince and his ladies are said to have sat while enjoying fresh air that blows from the water." The most important portion of the building is the central hall which has an arched roof supported on six pillars of black marble from which the name of the edifice is derived. The upper portions of the arched openings have the appearance of wood work, a characteristic which is met with not infrequently in structures of this period.

The building is said to have been erected by Man Singh (Akbar's Viceroy in Bengal in the last quarter of the 16th century) according to the author of the District Gazetteer while in the List of Ancient Monuments in Bengal (1895) it is ascribed to "Shah Shuja, second son of Shah Jahan", the information being most probably derived from Montgomery Martin's book above referred to.

It is now a protected monument under Act VII of 1904, but still in the possession and custody of the East Indian Railway Company, who have been exempted by the Government of Bihar and Orissa from entering into the customary agreement on the undertaking to execute the necessary repairs to the building on the advice of this Department. I visited Rajmahal at the request of the Railway Engineer on the 29th March 1917, and drew up a conservation note in which I have recommended a few small repairs, all that the building now requires—it being otherwise in good condition.

H. PANDAY

